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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGE.

On the 19th September, 1900, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., WALTER CLEMENT, only son of Walter DREW, Crouch Hill, London, to MAUD, eldest daughter of George J. B. SAYER, C.E., of Hongkong.

DEATH.

At the General Hospital, Singapore, at about 6 a.m. on the 11th inst., EDWARD EUGENE GEARY, aged 19 years, eldest son of John Eugene GEARY.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 17th August arrived per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, on the 15th September (29 days); the German mail of the 8th August arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen*, on the 18th September (41 days); and the American mail of the 21st August arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 19th September (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The London Office of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, the *Hongkong Weekly Press*, the *Chung Ngai San Po*, and the *Chronicle and Directory for China, Japan, Straits Settlements, etc.*, has been opened at No. 131, Fleet Street, E.C.

The news of the week from the North will be found in the telegrams from our correspondents on p. 221. Owing to the previous breaks-down of the line and the pressure of official messages, all news has been very much delayed during the past week.

Japan is reported to be negotiating a \$20,000,000 dollar loan in New York.

Admiral Seymour on H.M.S. *Alacrity* left Shanghai for Taku on the 19th instant.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* hears that the R. W. Fusiliers are likely to remain in Peking for the winter.

The negotiations for the prohibition of the export of cattle from Shanghai after the 15th inst. have failed.

The French General Voyron, who reached Shanghai on the 15th instant, left the same night for Nagasaki.

The Chinese are said to be obstructing the channel of the Yangtze below the Kiangyin Forts to prevent the Germans from proceeding up the river.

Our correspondent at Taipeh, Formosa, telegraphed on the 15th inst. — A strong typhoon is blowing and the floods are raging in the neighbourhood.

It is stated that Mr. John Foster, who was recently appointed American Peace Commissioner, is expected in Japan shortly from San Francisco on his way to China.

A report has been received in Japan that seven Russian railway engineers working beyond the Korean border were attacked by the Chinese, and that three of them were killed, the rest escaping to Wi-ju, whence they were sent to Chinampo.

The new King of Italy has bestowed the rank of Commander of the Order of St. Maurice and Lazarus upon the Italian Minister at Peking, the Marquis G. Salvago Raggi, while Sig. Catani, the Italian attaché, has been created a Knight of the same order.

The cruiser *Archer*, for some time guardship at Singapore, has had £17,000 expended on her. She is now to be commissioned from the Medway Fleet Reserve for the Australian Station. There she will replace her sister-ship, the *Mohawk*, now in Chinese waters.

On Tuesday morning Field Marshall Count von Waldersee, the Commander-in-Chief of the allied forces in China, arrived with his staff in Hongkong by the German mail steamer *Sachsen*, and after visiting the Governor and the General Commanding proceeded on his journey to Shanghai.

On the 18th instant the British Consul-General at Canton, Mr. B. C. G. Scott, received a telegram from the principal Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Kweichow, Kweichow, announcing the safety of three British and American missionaries from Hing-yi. They were to leave Chungking on the 16th instant and be taken through Szechuan by a Chinese escort.

The only arrival of a British transport in Hongkong harbour on its way north this week has been that of the *Itaura* (20th inst.). The departures of transports for the north have been:—*Lalpoora* (15th), *Pundua* (16th), *Sumatra* (17th). The gunboat *Protector* left on the 19th for Shanghai, and the *Britomart* on the 20th for Canton to relieve the *Redpole*. H.M.S. *Argonaut* went out on the 17th for practice, so that the harbour was without any British warship at all until the return of the latter ship yesterday morning.

News arrived on Monday from Shanghai that the intended departure of Li Hung-chang for the north had been delayed by a typhoon and that he had stopped at Woosung. A telegram despatched on Thursday night from Shanghai reported that Li was taking the Chihli Viceroy's seals and starting on Friday (the 21st) for Peking, where he will join Prince Ching.

The *Foochow Daily Echo* of the 15th inst. says:—It is reported that there is a threatening of trouble at Fuh-an and that the local authorities are too weak to deal with it. Many of the gentry of the district have moved away in consequence. Fuh-an being within easy march of Foochow, the Provincial authorities can promptly send troops to quell any disturbance if necessary.

Germany has now in Chinese waters five battleships, the *Brandenburg*, *Fürst Bismarck* (Vice-Ad. Bendemann's flagship), *Kurfürst Friedrich Wilhelm* (Rear-Ad. Geissler's flagship), *Weissenburg* and *Wörth*; nine cruisers, the *Bussard*, *Gefion*, *Geier*, *Hansa* (Rear-Ad. Kirchhoff's flagship), *Hertha*, *Irene*, *Kaiserin Augusta*, *Schwalbe*, and *Seeadler*; four gunboats, the *Ilia*, *Jaguar*, *Luchs*, and *Tiger*; and the despatch vessel *Hela*. The total tonnage is 90,570 tons and the number of guns 380. There are also three torpedo-boats at Singapore.

The Mounted Balloon Section for service in China arrived in Hongkong by the s.s. *Bombay* yesterday. On the 10th there was an inspection at Aldershot by Major Friend, the officer commanding R.E. troops and companies. The section totals seventy-eight of all ranks, the officers being Lieut-Colonel MacDonald, Captain Hume, and Lieutenant Martin Leake. They bring out a tremendous amount of material, and expect to be split up into three or four parties. Properly equipped apparatus and retorts for making gas in the field and repairing outfits are also part of the equipment.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the receipt of the news in Hongkong this week of the death at Nagasaki, soon after her arrival by the *Ballaarat*, of Mrs. Scott, wife of the Bishop of North China. She was suffering from dysentery when she arrived at Nagasaki on the 5th inst., and she died on Friday evening, the 7th inst. The Bishop and Mrs. Scott were at Tientsin during the siege, and then went on to Weihaiwei. They were on their way home, via Japan, to rest. It was due to Mrs. Scott, our readers will remember, that the Soldiers and Sailor's China Relief Fund was started by us, with regard to the expenditure of part of which fund we publish a letter from Head Quarter House in our issue to-day.

The committee recently appointed in the Japanese Educational Department to make investigations as to the best method of improving Japanese writing has been considering the question of adopting kana or Roman letter. The committee, however, being unable to come to any definite conclusion, has addressed a memorial to the Government, recommending that the committee should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet, in the same way as the Code Investigation Committee, and its authority extended. Should the Government accept the memorial, says a contemporary, it will be a long time before the result of the work of the committee is seen. At present the work of the committee is said to be in abeyance.

THE ALLIES IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 15th September.)

The present situation in China, were it not that so many elements of tragedy are in it, would offer to the unembarrassed spectator no small amount of comedy. The British Government has thought the events of the last three months sufficiently serious to send out from India four army corps; that of the United States has sent to the front or has on the way some twelve thousand men, and Germany from her distant base in Europe has despatched a like number, and thinks the affair sufficiently dangerous to put in command a Field Marshal. Japan in response to the wishes of the rest has placed in the field some thirty thousand men, not to speak of nearly all the Powers of Europe having sent to the scene an important portion of their available naval forces. Russia and France have likewise come on the scene, and have done in the field some actual good service. But Russia has been lately spending her money rather freely in productive enterprises, which, although not immediately remunerative, are sound investments, and will probably within the next three or four years increase largely not only the revenue derivable from her great Asiatic possessions, but her influence and weight in the future of Asia. But Russia finds she is not yet ready; momentarily her finances are a little strained, and she finds some difficulty in keeping up with the others. All this is comprehensible, and if she only frankly acknowledged it, no one would think less of her. But here comes in the rub. Finding it is extremely inconvenient for her to complete the work she had undertaken, yet jealous of any one else undertaking it, she coolly proposes to all to go back in the middle, and leave the task undone till she is herself ready to go forward again! In other words, after making all its preparations on the spot, and this, not because it had committed any crime or in any way compromised itself, but simply that it was not momentarily convenient for its good friend Russia to step in at the instant. It goes without saying in the present dependence of France on her big friend that we should hear mutterings and growlings from the Quai d'Orsay; but France's humble submission to the will of the other, however beautiful a thing in the abstract, is not a matter that concerns the world at large, except to look on and wonder that a Power which but a few years ago was influential in the councils of Europe, and whose statesmen in a great measure controlled the other continental Powers, should have elected to descend to the position of a mere parasite of Russia. But so it is; and not the least comic part of the play is the humility with which France after ransacking her lander for supplies, in order to look as big as any one else, has suddenly become converted to the views of her patron. So far as France and Russia are concerned the situation is sufficiently embarrassing, but it assumes a graver character when from different motives we find the United States following in an almost similar track. The States have everything to gain by the settlement of the difficulty in China; even more than England they have suffered from the recent upheaval; American troops have rendered timely aid to the other Powers, and looking back it seems well nigh impossible that without the assistance of the forces sent on from Manila the rescue of the Legations would have been practicable, without considerably greater loss than has resulted. America is, however, on the eve of a

presidential election, and it is unfortunately the case that she finds her policy hampered, and often for the moment actually reversed during the recurring four-yearly crisis. A large proportion of her population is opposed to the States mixing themselves up with the affairs of the world at large, and finds a secret sympathy with the exclusive policy of China. They would have the States confine themselves within a wire fence; would eat their own corn, drink their own beer, clothe themselves in their own cloth, and shut themselves out from all association with their fellow men. The feeling is by no means coincident with the divisions of party, but is so deep-seated that in looking for votes neither party can afford to neglect it; so willy-nilly the man who would be president must spread his sails to catch the lightest breeze that blows. Some eight years ago in the last throes of the Harrison administration, *faut de mieux* the Hon. J. W. FOSTER acted for a few brief months as Secretary of State, going out of office in the next April with the moribund Administration. In 1894 Mr. FOSTER came out to China as Law Adviser to LI HUNG-CHANG, and distinguished himself as even more Chinese than his patron. In a presidential election every side and every shade of party counts, and to the Chinese element in the country Mr. FOSTER's principles of exclusion as applied to politics are doubtless popular. Mr. McKINLEY finds that good as may be expansion as a policy to work on, during election times it is advisable to clothe it, as they clothe the Venus de Medici in certain cities of the West; so Mr. FOSTER is dragged out of his obscurity, and sent to China as United States Commissioner. In 1858 a somewhat similar position of affairs found Mr. REED, the then Plenipotentiary of the States, taking his cue from the Russian Minister, Admiral POUTIATINE, as a writer in these columns reminded us yesterday. Both without incurring the expense of a war were desirous of gaining all its advantages. It is not on record that the States came off very successfully; in fact they were made the catspaw of the Tsar, who played his game so successfully that two years after Russia quietly fell into possession of the entirety of Eastern Manchuria. The result was not at all that America anticipated. Her backing up of obstruction in China has led up to the recent atrocities, of which she has had to bear even more than her share; while her complacency to Russia has ended in the building up of the Primorsk, from any benefit from which she is jealously excluded, and the formation in the Pacific of a rival, and by no means friendly, naval competitor. These things are doubtless an allegory from which we can learn very useful lessons; and the chief of these is that we have in hand a very serious business; too serious, in fact, for us to be turned aside by the interested cajolery and mistaken sentiment of our very good friends in the enterprise.

A Simla telegram of the 27th ult. says:—Arrangements have been made for the supply direct from Australia of six hundred artillery horses and colts as a reserve at Hongkong for the China Force. The supervising staff is to be sent from India. Twenty one-pounder Maxim's pompoms are being supplied from home for the China expeditionary force, while 195 horses for the same will be shipped at the end of the current month from India. The War Office has been asked to arrange to send back to India as many as practicable of the thirty Commissariat transport subordinates now employed in South Africa to replace those despatched with the China Force, which has absorbed altogether 57 members of the subordinate branch of this Department in India.

MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 21st September.)

What are the "limits of elasticity of conscience" in the case of a Parliamentary Secretary of State? The constitution as generally interpreted throws little light on the subject; yet that there must be some is indicated pretty plainly by the two Secretaries who have occupied the post under Lord SALISBURY's present administration. Mr. CURZON, now Lord CURZON of KEDLESTON, had some very high limits on the subject, and made some remarkable statements in the House. But then Mr. CURZON resigned, and for a time men were led to believe that he did so on account of the amount of work attached to the office; yet Mr. CURZON accepted the office of Governor-General of India, a post implying far more work and responsibility. Unfortunately he knew something of what was going on in the East, and men were found to suggest that the elastic limit had been reached in his case, and that he could go further in support of a policy of retrogression, nor could he be a party to throwing further dust in the eyes of the House. His successor did not labour under the same disability, so perhaps the experiment was hardly a fair one. Mr. ST. JOHN BRODRICK could boast with an easy conscience that he at least knew nothing of China. It was after all but a little way from the Foreign Office to Portland Place; it was easy to step into his cab, and, after all, Sir HALLIDAY MACARTNEY and CHICHEN LO FENGLU were very kind, and would doubtless place all the information he required at his disposal.

On the 30th March last Mr. WALTON spoke of the general neglect of British interests in China displayed by Her Majesty's Ministers, and asked a few pertinent questions. It was eminently an occasion on which Mr. BRODRICK could have condescended to give some important information to the House on what was being done; and most ministers in his place would have been glad of the opportunity. If any member had however gone to the House under the expectation of being enlightened, he must have been grievously disappointed. Amongst other things, Mr. WALTON spoke of the very alarming position in Peking and the disturbed condition of the country, and the very evident anti-foreign feeling exhibited in many places. These offered the Secretary an opportunity for a display of ridicule. Everything was going on in the best possible manner, and if there were any delay at all it was owing to the delay of the British financier, who had obtained concessions through this most active of Governments, but had actually done no work, and the Chinese Government were "justified in requiring that some substantial progress" should be made with what they had already granted before proceeding further. He had the hardihood to deny that British influence had disappeared at Peking, or that the Government had given up any claims they had put forward. As every one of these statements proved untrue, a fact which it did not require the massacres of the next June to prove, it becomes a matter of some interest to enquire how they came to be put forward by a Minister of the Crown in Mr. BRODRICK's position. Were they, in fact, deliberate untruths put forward with the object of deception, or did they on the other hand proceed from true and genuine ignorance of the real position of affairs? There is absolutely no middle alternative, and Mr. BRODRICK must be prepared to accept one or other conclusion. In either case the Minister who uttered them

is no longer fit to be entrusted with the important duties of his post. Were this a solitary instance of a deliberate attempt at misrepresentation there would be an opportunity of taking extenuating circumstances into account; but the practice is as old as Lord SALISBURY's administration. Lord SALISBURY has, it is too well-known, peculiar ideas on the subject of China, formed years ago when England was in the ascendant or rather when as yet no other country had stepped into the lists. Then was the time of "buffer" states, and China was to be tickled up as a barrier against Russian encroachment. Hence arose a false system of what was called "strengthening" China to enable her to bear the strain. Had the strengthening been done judiciously much good might have come of it, but unfortunately England has always been represented in China by the feeblest of her sons, and the process evolved consisted in urging China to buy munitions of war, and getting foreign officers to drill her troops; and at the same time flattering the Chinese Government as to its power. At first it was intended that British officers should be placed in charge of these preparations, till at least the Chinese Government was able to walk unassisted, and an admiral, Capt. LANG, was actually placed for a spell in charge of the Chinese navy. But the British Government had taken no precautions to provide against the real weakness of China, her unblushing corruption. Admiral LANG naturally expected the fleet presumed to be under his command to be free of these abuses, and that all ranks would be duly paid, but China nourished no such intentions. We know in China what was the result: from the admiral, down to the signal-boy, everyone combined to render command impossible, and the result was that Admiral LANG, unsupported by his own Government, and embarrassed in every way by that of China, resigned a post he could not retain with honour. By land the results were even worse; a few foreign instructors were engaged, but were placed in such inferior positions that the service soon degenerated, and the pretended officers found themselves mere teachers of drill without position or authority. The import of foreign munitions offered however a profitable field for corruption of the most glaring kind. All of the high officials were more or less besmirched, but the Empress Regent and LI HUNG-CHANG took the leading honours in this contest. As a rule British houses and British manufacturers refused to lend their names to these unscrupulous transactions, but others were not above going shares in the plunder, and by degrees the arms trade passed out of British hands. The explosion came at the outbreak of the war with Japan, when the armies for which pay had been carefully drawn proved to have no existence except on paper; and the guns turned out to be wood and the powder coal-dust. These facts were perfectly well known to every one except the British Foreign Office, and they might have been as well known within it as outside, but that it was the policy of the day to shut one's eyes. While the other states of Europe were sending their best men out to China the British Office made service in China a disgrace. Peking led nowhere, and to be sent there meant a withdrawal from the round of promotion. We know in China how the Empire was served. If by any chance a minister did essay to enlighten Lord SALISBURY, he was snubbed for his pains; or in the one case where this was impracticable he was promoted out of the way. All this, while the source of information was Portland Place, and too frequently the chief

spring of Lord SALISBURY's policy was to be found at the same polluted source. If England has been indifferent as to the character and abilities of the representatives she sent to China, China on her side has carefully selected her agents; it was by no mere chance of promotion that LO FENG-LU, the able secretary of LI HUNG-CHANG, was sent to England, nor that WU TING-FANG, formerly better known as the very clever advocate in Hongkong, NG ACHOY, was despatched to Washington. Both were carefully coached in the parts they had to play, and of these the principal one was to insidiously mislead the Prime Minister, rather by false suggestion than actual falsehood. Such at all times have been the arts of a people in decay; and it required little knowledge of history to guard against them. To yield nothing except under actual pressure, to deceive those who were disposed to act a friendly part, and to respect those only who could not be befooled by falsehood and misrepresentation—these have ever been the weapons of a declining state, which has lost its virility. Cunning and treachery come to be regarded as virtues in a moribund state as naturally as ability and magnanimity in a progressive one. These are things that ought to have been known to Lord SALISBURY and his Parliamentary Secretary, and the House of Commons might have been spared the repetition of the paltry subterfuges of a discredited minister like LI and his nominees WU and LO, and the Ministry saved the disgrace of Mr. BRODRICK's inspired utterances.

THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENT.

(Daily Press, 19th September.)

Already it would seem that steps are being taken by the various countries interested in China which are preparatory to the settlement of the present crisis. Russia, carrying out her own policy, and content with the "annexation" of the right bank of the Amur, about which the St. Petersburg papers are jubilant, has withdrawn five thousand men from Peking. Germany is placing four million treasury bonds in America at four per cent. to pay for the expenses of her expedition to China, and Japan is also attempting an American loan. The Vatican, apparently, has figured out the bill which China will have to pay her for the losses, in life and property, of Roman Catholic missionaries in China. The United States threaten to open independent negotiations—with the Empress Dowager or with whom else it is not stated.

In the meantime the position is not very different from what it was a month ago, when Peking fell into the hands of the Allies. The first act in the punishment of the Chinese Government for the outrages committed against the Powers was then finished. There has been a long wait, and troops have been hastening north, but no further active steps have been taken. Over the proposed punitive expedition to Paotingfu certain mysterious intrigues appear to have been in progress. We have been told that it has been stopped by rain, that the Americans have protested against it as a dangerous extension of the sphere of operations, that it has actually started, that it has been postponed. While the expedition has been talked about the opposition to it at Paotingfu has been consolidating, and now it seems that the task of advancing on the place will be fraught with danger and possibly with heavy loss. Once more a lesson has been afforded of the folly of meeting the Chinese with their own policy of procrastination. The best, or rather the only good, outcome of recent inaction in the north is that it is enabling

Britain and Germany, the two Powers who have committed themselves by official utterances to a certain firmness of attitude toward the Chinese Government, to alter the balance of military strength in Chihli, which up to now has been so much against them. In saying this we must not be taken to assume any precise identity of aim for the Germans and British; but it is an undoubted fact that, while the other Powers could, if not with grace, at least with less disgrace, acquiesce in a general patching up of affairs on the mere basis of pecuniary indemnification and guarantees for future good conduct, fortunately in our case and in that of Germany the Governments are bound by their own words to see that a stable settlement is brought about, and in both countries public opinion is behind the Government on the point. It may certainly be argued that our Government, at least, has often before spoken firmly and then been put off with worthless Chinese assurances, but never before was the whole of our Empire subjected to so salutary a shock (we speak from a purely utilitarian point of view) as when it waited with anxiety for the scantiest news of the besieged Legations at Peking. If only the Powers really interested in the re-establishment of China as an Empire on a secure foundation can dismiss from their minds the unworthy suspicions which they may have of one another, there will at last be hopes that the only statesmanlike policy in this terribly difficult question may carry the day against the selfish intrigues of the partitionists. We reproduced in full on Monday the exceedingly able letter which appeared in the *Times* of the 13th ult. over the signature "X." The writer advanced at some length the main outlines of the policy by which the Powers might hope to build up a new and better China. Briefly summarised they are as follows:—

(1) A pecuniary indemnity must of course be exacted for property destroyed, and this will be heavy. But pecuniary indemnity for murder only creates the belief that foreigners may be killed at the cost of a few thousand taels, while it also embitters the feeling towards missionaries, etc., because the money is raised by local taxation: Territorial indemnity is still worse, for it creates the belief that missionaries are but pawns in the game of politics. Moreover, a huge indemnity will simply reduce China to beggary and lead to a general insurrection.

(2) The real culprits being the officials, who would escape, as they always have done, if an indemnity alone were exacted, they should be punished without delay—by the death penalty in the case of the most prominent, whose guilt is already known. This is not mere retribution, but will make the official class realise in fact its responsibility for government.

(3) It follows from this that the present government clique must be done away with. Prince TUAN's guilt is proved beyond a doubt, and the Empress Dowager is either responsible for the Boxer movement or is the tool of those who are; in either case she is unfit to rule.

(4) The restoration of KWANG HSU is called for by the genuine loyalty of the mass of the people to him. There is no lack of tried officials of liberal sentiments to help him in the task of establishing a reformed Government in a less precipitate manner than he attempted the task before.

(5) The Reform Party calls for the sympathetic assistance of the Powers. It must not be taken for granted that the Reformers are necessarily pro-foreign. They are in the first place nationalists and favour the introduction of Western sciences as a

means to make China a strong and progressive nation. But they alone can prevent a recurrence of the present crisis in the Empire.

(6). The Powers themselves must reform their policy toward China. They have deprived her of every harbour worth having and practically marked her out for ultimate partition. Their missionaries cannot be acquitted of the charge of unduly interfering on behalf of their converts, disregarding the fact that a Chinaman remains a Chinaman, though he may be a convert. Unless this policy is abandoned, China has no chance of progress.

It will be observed that in the above programme the question of raising the money for the indemnity for destruction of foreign property is not discussed. As a matter of fact, the general reform of the Government, carrying with it thorough financial reform, supplies the solution of this question, as we have had occasion to point out before. The difficulty mainly lies in getting the proper guarantees for the immediate future. The boundless unexploited wealth of China will ultimately answer all possible calls. The principle of free trade in the Empire has already been established in theory by the so-called Inland Waters Concession. It remains to put the concession into practice and to extend it generally for the reformed Government to have at its disposal money for all demands, provided (and this will of course be an essential part of the rehabilitation of China) that the corrupt mandarinat is entirely cleared away and the revenues no longer go for the most part into their purses. It is not of course pretended that in practice all will be straightforward or that the details will not need the utmost attention. But it can be claimed with justice that if the Powers, or at least those among them that are honest in their intentions toward China, take up a firm position and resolve to utilise the best elements in the Empire itself to bring about a lasting government of this long misled country, there is a feasible line of policy open to them which they can adopt with credit to themselves and to the salvation of China.

RUSSIA'S "OVERMASTERING POSITION."

(Daily Press, 20th September.)

Shanghai papers supplement to a small extent our very scanty information of what is now going on in Peking. What news they bring, however, is by no means of a welcome nature. The *North-China Daily News*, for instance, learns that the Russians have forcibly ejected Dr. MORRISON from the house in Peking which he had occupied since the relief, when he had no house of his own to go to. Dr. MORRISON's new house, it appears, our contemporary says, is in the part of Peking over which Russia has been given administrative control, but this, of course, does not give Russia any territorial rights, and her action is indefensible, as no doubt the *Times* correspondent will explain to that journal's readers. Again, without a shadow of right, Russia has taken exclusive possession of the Imperial Palace at Peking, and only allows subjects of other nations to visit it as a favour, personally conducted by Russian officers. Of the fact that the railway line has fallen completely into Russian hands we have already heard, but if the story is true that the Peking end of the line was in British hands and was voluntarily given up, it is obvious that the blame is entirely ours. In Tangku again, the *N.-C. Daily News* relates, Russia is acting as if it were conquered territory, granting leases of Chinese-owned houses to

foreigners at exorbitant rents in the name of the Tsar. Such facts as these certainly justify the words of Dr. MORRISON's despatch of the 31st ult. with regard to Russia's assumption of an overmastering position. Now such a situation can only have been gained by consent or the weakness of the other contingents' commanders, and we may take it that in the case of the majority of the Powers represented that it was weakness, induced by lack of cohesion and diversity of ideas, which led to their accepting the undignified position which they occupy. Russia had at her command a large force and she had a definite plan, which she has carried out regardless of the feeble protests of any of the other nations. This state of affairs can only be altered by the change of the balance of numbers between Russia and the Powers whose interests are not the same as Russia's, and by the arrival on the scene of Count VON WALDERSEE. How soon the German commander-in-chief is due to arrive at his destination we are not in a position to say; nor yet is it known of what nature is the German Emperor's plan which he carries in his pocket. To quote our northern contemporary once more: "We shall all have to wait for that to be unfolded; and the interval will be used by Russia to consolidate her hold on the north of China, while the rescued Ministers at Peking of the other Powers look at each other across the Spanish Minister's table and wonder what they can do to get orbits of their own again."

THE PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

(Daily Press, 18th September.)

The Reports furnished by the Malaria Committee of the Royal Society, together with the remarks appended thereto by the various members of the Sanitary Board, as submitted at the Board's meeting on Thursday last, are of paramount interest to us here in Hongkong. The intimate connection that, within the past two years, has been undoubtedly established between malaria and the mosquito, and the unquestioned possibility of largely controlling, if not of completely stamping out, one of the worst scourges of tropical regions, by the local extermination of mosquitoes, makes the subject one of urgency. The old saw that prevention is better than cure applies very forcibly in this instance. The Sanitary Board, through its numerous officers, may effect a great deal by way of abolishing all stagnant pools in the vicinity of Chinese villages. The native community in our midst might at the same time be instructed as to the meaning of such action, through simply worded pamphlets distributed to them gratuitously. The Registrar-General's Department should be requisitioned to make the necessary translation. The Chinese respect written characters—*King sik tsz chi*—much more than mere verbal explanation. We presume that European residents would themselves see to the destruction of such breeding haunts in the neighbourhood of their own houses. In this crusade a *outrance* against the mosquito, it seems to us that the brunt of the fray will fall to the lot of the P. W. D. As Dr. HARTIGAN very pertinently minuted, that Department might profitably lay to heart all that these valuable Reports suggest with respect to levelling, drainage, both surface and sub-soil, and to the radical method of treating rock-ports. It is a recognized fact that the draining of the race-course in the Happy Valley has made the hamlet of Wong-nei-chung much healthier. There can be no room for doubt that similar

treatment of the pestiferous swamps about Aberdeen would have a like beneficial result on the health of Aberdeen, Little Hongkong, and the whole valley leading up to the Wanchai and Magazine Gaps. The services of the Botanical and Afforestation Department might be enlisted with regard to the planting in suitable localities of such trees as mosquitoes are known to shun. For years the upper levels at the west end of the town, from Breezy Point out to Belcher's Battery, to the south of Caine Road, have been notoriously fever-ridden. The Fever Commission of 1886 was greatly exercised over the condition of one section of this district. Certain highly insanitary Chinese hovels were razed; but the main recommendations put forward by the members of the Commission have never to this day been carried out. Considerable improvement, as far as the eye is concerned, has been quite recently effected over a rocky, shrub-grown, water-logged piece of hillside between Richmond and Caine Roads. The work is too new to yield any perceptible results as far as decrease of malaria in that particular quarter is concerned. Vacant sites should not be permitted to be misused, as they are apt to be if neglected. We notice that several such lots, after lying untended for years, have been suddenly taken in hand, sodded, and planted with trees and foliage shrubs. Whatever be the immediate cause of this, the step is distinctly in the right direction. Isolated and spasmodic efforts, however, can be of no avail in a matter of this kind. To be effective and permanent, the attack should be continuous and thorough, and carried out, as far as practicable, simultaneously over wide areas. Many prophylactic measures are well within the reach of all intelligent householders. The mosquito breeds in standing water. Consequently, no disused wine-cask or beer-barrel, no receptacle large or small, capable of holding water, should be allowed to stand out for any length of time in the open air, unattended to, especially during the rainy season. The trays in which flower-pots usually stand should be regularly emptied of their liquid contents, which otherwise will soon be alive with larval mosquitoes. Periodical visits should be paid to all out-houses and offices, to see that servants do not transgress in this direction. Any stagnant pool of water should be treated with paraffine and then filled up with earth. According to papers brought by the English Mail on Saturday the mosquito has been authoritatively proved to carry the parasite that causes elephantiasis. So that, apart from the irritating annoyance and discomfort of its shrilling and its sting, the *culex* stands convicted of infecting man with the two dread maladies of malaria and elephantiasis. There is thus abundant reason why we should neglect no effort, whatever the cost, to rid ourselves of this fell and formidable agent of disease. The D. P. W. was invited by the Chairman of the Board to look through the Royal Society's Reports and comment on them. It will be more than interesting to see the attitude he assumes.

Referring to the wreck of the *Futami Maru*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* of August 28th says:—What in shipping circles has chiefly been pointed out is that in the S.W. monsoons prevailing the *Futami Maru* could not have struck the point upon which she was wrecked unless she was set in there by the current or driven in by a typhoon, and a very warm admiration is expressed for the seamanship which must have been displayed by Captain Thom in landing the whole of the lives in his care in safety. It is rarely that a passenger vessel of her size is wrecked without loss of life.

THE END OF BOERDOM.

(Daily Press, 17th September.)

Early in the year 1857 the French Government, having grievances of its own to rectify, took advantage of the British expedition to China to join in seeking redress of that obstinate and wrong-headed nation; and on the 27th May, forty-three years ago, the French first-class frigate *Audacieuse* set sail from Toulon, having on board Baron Gros and his secretary the Marquis de Moëges. The *Audacieuse* was a ship of the then most modern type, and in addition to carrying a large armament, was propelled by a screw driven by engines of 900 horse power, nominal. Steam navigation was only then beginning to be applied to ships of war, and it therefore need excite but little surprise to learn that it was not till the very end of July that the voyagers reached the Cape of Good Hope, having experienced by no means pleasant weather on the journey. As the ship had to spend some time refitting, and as the Marquis was a keen, though on the whole friendly, critic, it is interesting to review his experiences in the light of subsequent events. Of the road from Simon's Bay to Capetown, he tells us that it was one long street dotted with pretty cottages with verandahs, white-washed walls, and green outside shutters. "There is an air of elegance about the smallest cot. It is English tidiness engrafted on Dutch cleanliness." Even then the population of Capetown amounted to some 30,000 of European blood, but what most struck the traveller was finding that the colony had its own government, and administered its affairs through its own Parliament without interference from England. That a colony under the circumstances should remain loyal seemed impossible to the Frenchman, who sees the only reason in the fact that it is deficient in population and capital, and could not exist without direct assistance from England, in the way of troops, &c. He of course saw the advantage to England of the positions at Table Bay and Simon's Bay, which during peace protect her trade, and in war establish for her an overpowering preponderance in the Southern Atlantic. These, however, are only facts that would have struck any traveller of ordinary intelligence. The most interesting portion of the book is that connected with the social problem, and the separation of the races, the abundance of horses and the methods of travelling by ox-teams and wagons, the latter showing every evidence of their Dutch origin. The great table-lands and their sparse population, the abundance of wild game, and the unsettled habits of the colonists come in for remark. The large infusion of Huguenot blood is commented on, and the curious fact that at that time nearly all the missionaries in the Colony were French Protestants, while the capabilities of the soil and climate for viniculture had attracted a considerable number of French settlers. All these things combined were evidently bringing about a peculiar phase of civilisation in the Colony different from that prevailing elsewhere. It is, however, when speaking of the Boer population and their manners and customs that the Marquis's book is most interesting. He speaks of the British Government having permitted the establishment of two small but independent republics to the north of the Colony. "Till very recently Cape Colony extended much further to the north. But the English Government, finding it useless to penetrate so far into the interior, and preferring a well-marked geographical boundary to an uncertain line nowhere distinctly marked in

nature, and always exposed to the invasion of barbarous tribes, abandoned a whole region which had previously been annexed, and fixed the Orange River as the northern frontier of the colony. It was within the limits of the territory so deserted and left without any government that the two small communities to which I refer were formed. They have their own government, and are entirely self-dependent." Quoting from a recent French traveller amongst these regions, the author gives a by no means flattering account of these peoples thus removed from contact with civilisation, which is well worthy of being read and studied after a lapse of nearly half a century. "The habits of these Boers, who have lapsed from a state of civilisation to a condition little better than that of savages, might furnish a novelist with a few good scenes. They live in the midst of extensive farms, in houses miles from each other, alone with their wives and children, servants and herds. They have large families, the ordinary number of children being from fifteen to eighteen. They have enormous herds. The Kaffirs sometimes carry off their cattle. Then the Boers mount on horseback, load their guns, and start at once in pursuit of the robbers. They are such excellent marksmen, and their skill in this respect is so well known to the natives, that the latter run off the moment they come in sight, leaving their booty behind them. It is a remarkable fact that these wild herds-men, living far in the wilderness and altogether beyond the pale of civilisation, had all heard of the Crimean war. In the evening when the day's work was done, nothing pleased them better than to hear about it. They know absolutely nothing of politics. They hear little of what is going on in the world. They read their Bibles and abuse the English. Round these two pivots turn all their thoughts. Dutch to the core, in all their feelings, hatred of the English constitutes their nationality. It was this feeling which led them to emigrate to the outskirts of the colony, and caused the exodus from Port Natal, a phenomenon full of interest in the history of humanity. This event has been recounted by one of themselves in the style of the historical books of the Old Testament." Pastoral nomads have everywhere long memories; the Kirghese wanderer over Central Asia sings to-day of the glorious deeds of a Genghis Khan; and the Boer oblivious of what has happened in the meanwhile, still in memory goes back to the seventeenth century when Drake and Van Tromp fought for the commercial supremacy of the world. The rooted antipathy of the Boers towards the English has thus, as is always the case, its foundation in a long past history. Elsewhere the antagonism between Dutch and English, which was perfectly natural during the great contest for supremacy, when more than once Dutch men-of-war sailed on plunder bent up the Thames, and even threatened London itself, has ceased, and been succeeded by a general sympathy of race and religion. To the Boer in Southern Africa the succeeding two centuries have been a perfect blank. As he descended in the scale of civilisation, the prejudices, not the judgment of his remote ancestors prevailed, and increasing ignorance rivetted the chain on his intellect. In the emancipation of the slaves England finally severed any bond of fellow-feeling with the Boer which might have found space to develop. The reading of the Bible, or rather of the Old Testament, as their sole acquaintance with literature has had the effect on the Boer that he sees in himself the representative of the "Chosen People" of old, whose privilege it was to purge the soil from the

presence of the aboriginal stock. To exterminate the Kaffir by any means in his power—murder, treachery or starvation alike—is in the eyes of the Boer an acceptable sacrifice to the old Israelitish God he worships. In emancipating the slave and checking the outrages on humanity of the Boer the British Government is in his eyes making an attack on his sentiment of religion; the compact with the African is an unholy thing, equally deserving of divine punishment with the truce made by the Israelites of old with their Amalekite neighbours, and to counteract so impious a conjunction murder, treason, and perjury may well be resorted to as in the sight of Heaven positive virtues. Such was the impelling concept of the Boer half a century ago, and the present war was the necessary result, as soon as he bethought himself sufficiently powerful to take up arms against the impious upholders of alien rights.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 14th September, 8.11 p.m.

Li Hung-chang left to-day for Tientsin by the China Merchants' steamer *Anping*, sailing under the British flag.

It is reported that he had a Russian escort. This was flatly denied when Admiral Seymour enquired, but the German despatch vessel *Hela* left at the same time.

It is certain that Li Hung-chang will merely register Russia's orders.

The official estimate is that there are certainly twenty thousand Chinese turncoat troops remaining at Peking.

Chinanfu reports that an encampment of Roman Catholic priests and their converts at Hoehien, Chihli, which has been besieged by the Boxers since June, was relieved on the 29th August by the troops sent to Chihli by Acting Viceroy Tingyung.

SHANGHAI, 16th September, 8 p.m.

The Paotingfu expedition has apparently been postponed.

Li Hung-chang has been detained at Woosung by the typhoon weather.

General Voyron arrived yesterday morning, the 15th inst., and left last night for Nagasaki.

Five thousand Russians are marching overland to Manchuria from Peking.

Numerous Boxers still interfere with the Tientsin-Peking line. It is reported that forty thousand Boxers are at Chochou, south-west of Peking.

SHANGHAI, 18th September, 9.15 p.m.

H. M. S. *Alacrity*, with Admiral Seymour on board, leaves on Wednesday morning for Taku.

Small but successful expeditions have been sent out in a south-westerly direction from Peking and Tientsin. A few Boxers have been found.

The total allied force at Peking on the 10th inst. amounted to twenty-two thousand.

A R.W.F. CASUALTY.

We received from Government House on the 14th instant the following copy of a telegram from General Sir A. Gaselee, received on Thursday night:—

"4,977 Private Jones, R.W.F., who was wounded in attack on Tientsin, died of wounds at Sinho on fourth."

THE SAFETY OF THREE KWEICHOW MISSIONARIES.

Mr. B. C. G. Scott, writing from H.B.M. Consulate, Canton, on the 18th inst., sends us the following translation of a telegram received from Kweiyang, the capital of

Kweichow. The English names of the persons referred to, Mr. Scott says, are quite unknown to him.

A SPECIAL TELEGRAM FROM THE PRINCIPAL BUREAU OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KWEIYANG, TO THE BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL, CANTON. KWEIYANG, 14th September.

The American and English missionaries of Hing-yi, Liu Feng-chun and others, in all two men and one woman, are returning to their native countries by way of Szechuan. They have now arrived at the capital of Kweichow. On the 16th September they will leave for Chungking. In addition to telegraphing to the Taotai of Tung-kuan in Szechuan to assist and protect them, they will, in accordance with the regulations, be safely escorted beyond the frontiers of this Province.

FATAL EXPLOSION AT TUNGCHOW —OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

We received on Thursday from Government House the following copy of a telegram from General Sir A. Gaselee, dated 17th September:—

Regret to report following casualties in accidental explosion of gunpowder at Tungchow yesterday evening:—

Chinese Regt., Capt. Hill, recovery hopeful.

R. W. F. and [? dead] Privates 5,009 Matim, 5,077 Haddow; dangerously, 4,566 Corporal Hughes, 4,137 Private Wogan, 4,661 Jones, 3,953 Private Cows; severe, 4,723 Private Hughes; slight, Privates 5,177 Gilbert, 5,082 Highfield.

First Chinese Regt., Rank and File, four dead, 7 injured.

1st Sikhs, Rank and File, dead nine, injured two.

7th Bengal Infantry, one man dead, one native officer and two men injured.

THE CIRCUMLOCUTION OFFICE ON INLAND NAVIGATION.

["It being one of the principles of the Circumlocution Office never on any account whatever to give a straightforward answer."—Charles Dickens.]

In view of any possible inclination on the part of our Government once more to accept and rely on Chinese promises, it is well that the public should know the manner in which they have been "juggled" out of their rights with past concessions. We publish below some Extracts from the Blue Books and other sources, showing the contradictory statements made from time to time by the Government on the opening of Inland Waters—an opening which our local Chamber of Commerce justly characterised as "a hopeless sham."

Sir Claude Macdonald to Lord Salisbury, 11th June, 1898. Blue Book No. 1, 1899, p. 174.

"I recalled the history of the Concession. Although it was ostensibly a promise freely given by China, it was, as their Excellencies knew, made at the request of Her Majesty's Government at a time when Great Britain had strong reasons for feeling that on account of our vastly preponderating shipping and trade interests Great Britain was the country most concerned in the new departure.

"To give an instance of the species of objection I was bound to make, I told the Ministers that I had heard from outside sources that the new Regulations restricted the concession to Treaty port provinces. Now, the original announcement made to me contained no such restriction. It said that 'wherever the use of native boats is now by Treaty permitted to foreigners, they shall equally be permitted to employ steamers or steam launches,' and if this very distinct promise were restricted I would be forced to object most emphatically.

"In addition I yesterday sent the Ministers a letter embodying the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 6th June, in which, I was instructed to make it clearly understood that Her Majesty's Government would insist on satisfactory regulations."

"Wherever the use of native boats is now by Treaty permitted to foreigners they shall equally be permitted to employ steamers or steam launches" (Sir Claude Macdonald to Lord Salisbury).

"British ships shall carry British goods to every riverside town in China." (Hon. G. N. Curzon in House of Commons).

"The aim of the original Concession, which was to allow foreign merchants to use steam vessels for conveyance of goods in the interior in places where they have hitherto been allowed to use native boats." (Mr. Bax Ironside to Hongkong Shipping Companies, 24th August, 1899, Blue Book 1900, p. 338).

"Foreigners have the right to take goods into China either by paying taxation en route or commuting it for a lump sum. We presume Mr. Bax Ironside will concede that in doing so he has the right to employ native boats to carry the cargo in. This, then, is plainly a case where the foreigner used native boats and hence should, according to Mr. Bax Ironside's own showing, be allowed to use steam. That he cannot under existing regulations do this is patent to everyone familiar with the recent action of the Customs authorities." (Daily Press, 4th November, 1899).

Foreigners have the right by Treaty to send a native boat from Canton up the West River to Yunnan or from Shanghai up the Yangtze into the Poyang or Tungting Lakes, taking goods for any and all places en route.

The Customs refuse to allow steamers to do this. "The Concession is reduced to this. A tradesman in an English town may supply Nos. 1 and 20 situated at the respective ends of a street by a van driven through that street. If, however, he has customers in the intervening houses he must transfer his goods to another van at whichever end of the street he pleases (he has that option) and after supplying Nos. 2 to 19 from that end and that van only he must return the way he entered, and on no account must he visit or pass the last house at the other end with his second van." (Consul Hosie, Wuchow Trade Report 1898).

Compare these Statements of June 3rd, 1898 with these, made subsequently:—

"There is no necessity for the insertion of the word 'small.' The size of the steamers may safely be left to be decided by the necessities of navigation for the requirements of trade. ... This interpretation of the word 'inland' is introduced to cover 'places on the sea coasts' without a possibility of doubt." (Sir Claude Macdonald, Blue Book 1899, p. 77).

"The words 'not being vessels of sea going type' are added in reference to steamers."

"The Chinese Authorities contended that some definition of the type of steamer seemed necessary not for the purely inland navigation but to prevent the undue extension of what was intended to be 'inland trade' to distant places along the coast not opened to international trade. The words 'not being vessels of a sea going type' were accordingly added to Regulation II. (Mr. Bax Ironside to Lord Salisbury, May 25th, 1899).

"Plying from Treaty Ports' would impede purely local traffic." Sir Claude Macdonald, June 3rd, 1898: "There are sections of the Upper Yangtze and other rivers which are practically cut off from Treaty Ports by rapids, &c., yet it might be found advantageous to maintain steamers on these sections."

"The publication of the local rules being desirable and easily accomplished it is also provided for." (Sir Claude Macdonald, June 3rd, 1898).

"As regards the publication of the Rules and Regulations in force at the several places where dues and duties are payable, referred to in Rule 7 ... the publication is to take place before the end of this Chinese Year." (i.e. 1898).

"The provincial authorities will appoint at each Treaty Port a responsible officer who will collect on provincial account the dues and duties on goods going to or coming from inland waters."

"The officer appointed will have an office in the vicinity of the Customs House." (Supplementary Rules, Inland Navigation).

"The publication of the Lekin Tariff Regulations, asked for in the Shipping Companies' letter of the 28th March last, should of course be insisted on without delay; but it would appear from Mr. Mansfield's comments that it is actually under way." (Observations by Mr. G. Jamieson at Lord Salisbury's request, 8th August, 1899).

"Cargo shipped on native boats to be towed by steamers is to be on the same footing as regards duty payment as steamer's cargo." (Clause 5 Supplementary Rules).

"What precedes will suffice without further detail to suggest explanations of, and reasons for, the restrictions foreign merchants now complain about, but in point of fact there is no differential treatment; whatever licensed Chinese steamers can do inland, foreign flag licensed steamers can do also, and whatever interport foreign steamers cannot do inland, interport Chinese

"The main idea of the Concession was that foreign steamers could ply from a Treaty Port to and from the interior."

"It was never intended by the regulations that foreign steamers could pass into the interior and trade from place to place for a certain time without coming back to their port of registry." (Sir Claude Macdonald, January, 1900).

Not published yet!

September, 1900. Not published yet!

Officer not appointed yet!

Not done yet, nor is any attempt being made at the various Treaty ports to get it done!

"The taxation of goods carried in these native vessels amounts by special arrangement to less than the duty and a half payable to the I. M. Customs and coast trade naturally flows in this channel.

"These steam launches tow vessels not merely to inland places between ports but even to other treaty ports—a privilege denied to British steamers specially registered under the Inland Navigation Regulations—and so far as I can gather there is no intention on the part of the I. M. Customs to call upon them to register, or treat them and the vessels towed by them

steamers are likewise like foreign steamers." forbidden to do." Sir (Consul Hoisie, Wu- Robert Hart to (Mr. chow trade report. Bax Ironside, 12th 1898). May, 1899).

"British steamers are now prevented from carrying passengers to and from Dosing and other large passenger stations not ports of call. Chinese steamers are nominally on the same footing, actually they are not, as experience has already proved. . . . The prohibition operates to the disadvantage of the British steamers. . . . and differential treatment is thus established." (Consul Fox to Mr. Bax Ironside, June 9th, 1899).

"Cargo shipped --- is to pay such duties as the Customs decide to be leviable." (Inland Regulations.)

Sir Claude Macdonald erased the words "decide to be leviable" and substituted "are entitled to levy under treaty." (Blue Book, No. 1, 1899, p. 177).

"I am instructing Her Majesty's Consul on the West River to watch the matter and to protest against any differential treatment." (Mr. Bax Ironside to Lord Salisbury, July 6th, 1899).

"I approve your action in the matter." (Lord Salisbury to Mr. Bax Ironside).

The final instructions given successively to every British Minister might be summed up in half a dozen words:—"When in doubt consult Sir Robert Hart." (Extract from *The Times*).

SUPREME COURT.

September, 18th.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

FORGING DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCURING MONEY.

There were five counts in the indictment against Ng Chik Yat, alias Ng Kow, alias Antonio Aquino, viz. (1) forgery (2) uttering a counterfeit writing; (3) forging transfer of shares; (4) offering, uttering, disposing of and putting off a forged document of shares; (5) causing to be delivered and paid certain money upon forged instruments with intent to defraud. He pleaded guilty.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, Q.C.) said the prisoner understood English. He pleaded guilty at the Magistracy. The facts in this case showed a very ingenious fraud. It seemed that one Dr. Divers became the transferee of 100 shares in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, as long ago as September 1st, 1896. Therefore in 1898, when this forgery was committed, it must have been known to the prisoner that Dr. Divers was the possessor of these shares. It seemed to have occurred to his mind that if he could forge a certificate of these shares, and then forge a blank transfer he would be able to procure a considerable temporary loan upon the security

of these documents. Although the matter would be found out eventually, still he might reasonably expect that it would not be found out for some months. Of course in order to complete this forgery he must be familiar with the mode in which these certificates were filled up and must first procure blank forms. He seemed to have got access to the book of blank forms of certificates of shares and to have torn a blank form out of the latter part of the book—in a part which it would take a year or so to reach. He then proceeded to fill it up, which he had no right to do, because that was the duty of another clerk. He then forged the signature or initials of the examining clerk, and then he forged Mr. Osborne's signature. He did this exceedingly cleverly. He understood he had been in the employ of the company for ten years, and consequently he had abundant opportunities of getting specimens of Mr. Osborne's signature, had he been so inclined. He made a very ingenious copy of Mr. Osborne's signature, which was not exactly an easy one to copy. He then took it to two directors for signature. These gentlemen, seeing the signature of the examining clerk and also that of Mr. Osborne, also signed it, thinking all was right. He also forged a blank transfer. This was a very clumsy forgery. He had no specimen of Dr. Divers' signature to go by, and therefore he had to draw upon his imagination. This signature would have given the prisoner away entirely, had the case been tried. The signature was a very bad imitation; it was not at all like Dr. Divers'. Armed with these two documents, he went to endeavour to procure an advance of money upon them. He went to the compradore of the Dominican Mission, who expressed his willingness to lend him \$6,000 on the strength of the security of these documents and a promissory note, but like a prudent man he thought it better to go to his solicitor in the first instance and see whether the documents were all right or not. He accordingly went down to the office of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, and the documents came before a gentleman not likely to be easily deceived, Mr. Looker. Mr. Looker in carefully examining these documents noticed that the transfer was dated October 18th, whilst the certificate for shares was dated the 19th, so that the shares were, according to this, transferred before the prisoner got them. That was a serious blot in the title. Mr. Looker naturally informed his client, who threw up the transaction. The prisoner then altered the 18th to 28th. This made the transfer nine days after the certificate of shares, which of course would do very well. Armed with these documents he approached the compradore of Messrs. Watson and Co., and from that gentleman he succeeded in extracting \$6,000 on the security of these documents, together with a promissory note in which he promised to repay the money with interest. Then the discovery was made that it was a fraud, and the man was arrested. He was arrested on board a steamer and taken to the Magistracy, and there he pleaded guilty, as he had done that day. What he had pleaded guilty to was first the common law misdemeanour of forging this certificate, and forging the transfer and uttering it, and then the offence of obtaining this \$6,000 by this forced document. The whole thing was that he was practically charged with forging these documents for the purpose of obtaining money. He had been asked by Mr. Osborne to place before his Lordship a few facts with regard to the prisoner. He had been in the employ of the company for ten years; he had pleaded guilty and had not put them to any trouble in the matter; and Mr. Osborne understood that the man had got into difficulties through gambling. He was bound in justice, however, to say that this was not an isolated case. There were other cases besides this which it had not been thought necessary to bring before the court.

His Lordship—What kind of gambling—gambling in shares?

The Attorney-General—I am informed that he has been gambling in shares, and that he was probably influenced by others more experienced than himself.

His Lordship—What was the face value of the 100 shares?

The Attorney-General—As your Lordship is aware the shares of the company vary a good deal.

His Lordship—When I said face value I meant market value.

The Attorney-General—The face value of 100 \$50 shares would be \$5,000, but the market value would be between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

His Lordship (to the prisoner)—Do you wish to say anything to me in regard to the sentence to be passed on you? I will hear you.

The Prisoner—No; I have nothing to say.

His Lordship—You don't wish to say anything.

The Prisoner—No.

His Lordship—Mr. Attorney-General, what character does Mr. Osborne give him apart from this matter?

The Attorney-General—I understand that up to the commission of this offence in 1898 he had rendered good and faithful service to the company for eight years, and that the company found him to be a good servant and an intelligent one. His intelligence was clearly exhibited in this case.

His Lordship, addressing the prisoner, said—You have pleaded guilty to a very serious offence. There are five different ways of dealing with the offence which is charged against you, and in respect to one at any rate of these ways you are liable to be sent to imprisonment for life with hard labour. Of course, I do not propose to go to that extent, or anything like that extent; but it seems to me that where persons are employed in positions of trust and abuse that trust in the very serious way that you have done the court is bound to pass a severe sentence. You see you committed here a forgery of documents dealing with large sums of money. Therefore persons like you who go into the evil course of gambling and resort to acts of that kind must be shown that they cannot do so without risking very severe punishment. I take into consideration what the Attorney-General has said in regard to your services, and also I take into consideration your having shown throughout these proceedings that you apparently were sorry for what you had done. So far as you could you have expressed your contrition, and the court always makes full allowance for that. At the same time I feel I should not be doing my duty if I passed upon you a less sentence than four years' imprisonment with hard labour.

THE MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON A JAPANESE DOCTOR.

Yamanaka Takachi pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with (1) wounding with intent to disfigure and (2) wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

His Lordship, to the interpreter—Tell him I will hear anything he wishes to say in regard to his sentence, and he can explain to me any reasons why his sentence should not be a heavy one.

The Attorney-General said that perhaps he should make a remark or two to explain the facts to his Lordship. He was afraid they had not got quite to the bottom of this case. The prosecutor was a Japanese doctor named Kiomatsu Kakekinchi, who resided at No. 11, Gage Street. He said he came here in August, 1898. He said the first time he ever saw the prisoner was on the 19th of August at his rooms. The prisoner came and asked for some medicine, complaining that something was the matter with his stomach. The doctor proceeded to give him some medicine, made it up for him, and placed it on the table, when, apparently without any provocation, the man took out a knife and attacked the doctor and wounded him in a very serious manner. He understood that two arteries were severed. Dr. Bell, who attended to the man's injuries, found him suffering from two severe cuts—one on the right side of the head two and a half inches long, and the other on the left arm. They were both clean cuts, and he understood that two arteries were severed, and Dr. Bell promptly applied ligatures. Had this not been done the man might have bled to death. It was a very extraordinary case. No explanation was forthcoming. The only thing the prisoner told the Magistrate was that he intended to disfigure the doctor. Why he intended to do this he (the Attorney-General) had not the least idea. Perhaps his Lordship would like to ask the prosecutor if he had any idea. He thought at first that the man was not right in his head, but he was not aware of anything of the kind.

His Lordship—Has he been under observation at the jail?

The Attorney-General—That I do not know. The only solution I can suggest is that he has been put up to it by someone who had a grudge against the doctor—that he was a sort of hired assassin. Does your Lordship want the doctor?

His Lordship—No. He says in the depositions that he does not know anything. (To the Interpreter) Tell him to say anything he wishes to say; I mean in regard to the sentence, and tell him to say why he did this thing. He has pleaded guilty to it.

The Prisoner—I do not wish to explain. I leave the matter in your Lordship's hands.

His Lordship—But I have to sentence him, and if he can show me some cause it might make a difference in his sentence.

The Prisoner—I was asked by a certain man to whom I am under an obligation to disfigure this man.

His Lordship—So someone got him to do it. Who was the man?

The Prisoner—The man is not here. His name is one Aka. He left for Japan last month.

His Lordship—Did he pay him for doing it?

The Prisoner—No, my Lord. I am under an obligation to him and did it because he asked.

His Lordship—Don't you know it is quite me. wrong to do these things?

The Prisoner—I know, my Lord, it is very wrong; but I did it as a matter of duty.

The Attorney-General—It has been suggested that the man who got him to do this was a Buddhist priest.

The Prisoner—He is not a priest; he is a trader.

His Lordship—Tell him this was a very wanton and wicked and unprovoked assault on a Japanese gentleman, and it makes the matter worse that he himself had no wrong to avenge against the Japanese gentleman, but was engaged by someone else to do it. The only thing that saves him from a very long sentence is that he seems to have used a very ineffective instrument (a small pocket-knife), but he must go to prison for two years with hard labour.

THE ARMED ROBBERY NEAR KOWLOON CITY.
Tsu Yeung, Kong Ko, and Lam Leung pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging them with having committed an armed robbery near Kowloon City on the 28th ult.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. C. E. Maligny, W. C. Barrett, Hector Rumford, S. F. de Jesus, W. H. Wickham, E. B. Raymond, and J. M. H. Meyer.

The Attorney-General said that if at about 11 o'clock on the evening of the 28th July last the jury could have been at the little village of Leung San Tsing, which was close by Kowloon City, they would have found in a little house a gardener, named Tsui Cho, and his wife and married daughter. About 80 feet away in a mat-shed was the old man's nephew. There was also a rice-cutter sleeping in a shed outside the house. At about midnight on the 28th July seven or eight robbers armed with knives and carrying torches appear to have made a raid upon the old man's house with a view to robbing it. He did not know why they should have gone there. The old man was not rich. He had just sold some pigs, which he had not been paid for, and the robbers might have thought he had got the price of the pigs in the house. At all events these seven or eight men made a raid upon his premises. The door was not locked. First of all they seized the old man, searched him, and took some of his things. The old man was so frightened that he said, "If you want anything I will give it to you," and tried to run out of the house. He was intercepted by some of the gang, who cut him in several places, including the right shoulder, left arm, right cheek, and right side of the head. It was a piece of most barbarous and most wanton cruelty to a man who was not resisting them and only wanted to run away from them. The way that the old man was treated was so severe that he became insensible, and when the police came to the house he was sent to the Hospital, where he remained some considerable time. The robbers then turned their attention to the wife, one of them threatening her by saying, "If you shout out I will burn you with this torch." They then struck her on the left arm with the back of a knife and stole her things. They then went to the married daughter and treated her in the same way. They told her they had knives with them and threatened to kill her, and took her silver bangles and things. In the meantime the old man called out to his

nephew, who was sleeping in a mat-shed 80 feet away. The nephew ran out to him to see what was the matter, and the robbers promptly attacked him. They took him back to the mat-shed and tied him up to a pole by his queue and put a rope round his neck. They then proceeded to take off his trousers. This proved a bad thing to them, because these trousers were part of the property found in the prisoner's possession and which led to their identification. Besides taking off his trousers they burned both his hands. When the robbers had gone, the nephew, having been set loose, went to the Kowloon City police station and reported the matter to Sergeant Clark. In a few hours the police were fortunate enough to arrest the prisoners with some of the stolen property in their possession.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was repeated.

The jury found the prisoners guilty.

His Lordship severely animadverted on the prisoners' conduct, and sentenced them to nine years' imprisonment with hard labour, ordering each also to receive 20 strokes with the birch within a week of their being sentenced.

This concluded the business of the Sessions.

20th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

CLAIM AGAINST A PAWN-SHOP.

Ho To, a married woman residing at No. 20, Gough Street, sought to recover from the Shing Wo Pawn Shop, which carries on business at No. 164, Wellington Street, \$600 damage for alleged unlawful detention by the defendant of one case of gold-leaf, three pairs of gold bangles, and one gold chain, alleged to have been pledged by the plaintiff with the defendant.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) for the defendant.

Mr. Slade said this was a claim for goods pawned with the defendant, and the defence was practically a denial that the ticket presented was issued by the defendant. The facts were exceedingly simple. On the 27th January last the plaintiff was residing in the house of a friend behind Queen's College. This was just before the Chinese New Year and she had an invitation to go to Canton to spend the New Year there. Before going she sent her valuables to a pawn-shop for safety, pawning goods of the value of \$480.50 for 30 Taels. She sent them by a servant boy named Chan A Kan, who was employed at No. 260, Queen's Road. The address on the pawn-ticket was 260, Wellington Street. It should have been 260, Queen's Road. The plaintiff then went up to Canton, and while there she looked for her pawn-ticket, but could not find it. She thereupon through a friend instructed Mr. S. W. Tso, solicitor, to write claiming the articles she had pawned and saying that she had lost her pawn-ticket. An answer was received from Mr. Ewens, solicitor to the pawn-shop, stating that they did not know any person of the name of Chan A Kan, that the ticket bearing the character stated had been issued by fraud, and that the articles in question had been redeemed. Shortly afterwards the plaintiff found her pawn-ticket and on the 28th March sent Chan A Yan round to the pawn-shop for her things, but the defendant declined to give up the goods, alleging that they had already been redeemed.

The plaintiff, in her evidence, said she valued the gold-leaf at \$200, the bangles at \$212, and the gold chain at \$68.50—total \$480.50. She told Chan A Yan to pawn the things for 30 Taels and he brought her \$38.33.

In answer to Mr. Francis the plaintiff said she was a concubine. She got so much for expenses. Sometimes she did not spend it all, and she changed what she had left for gold-leaf.

On the conclusion of the plaintiff's case, Mr. Francis said the case for the defence was extremely simple. The ticket which had been issued by the defendant for the goods, was brought in, carefully examined by the defendant, and the goods were delivered up. In the provisions of Ordinance 3 of 1868, they were bound to deliver the goods to the person pre-

senting the ticket, and they were completely exonerated. The ticket was tendered and the first month's interest taken, and they were bound to deliver to the person holding the ticket, and the defence was that the ticket tendered was the one issued by the defendants. The further hearing was adjourned until Friday.

On the 21st inst. the hearing of the case was continued and judgment was given for the defendant.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the Monthly Meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held on Tuesday, the 11th Sept., 1900, at 11.30 a.m.—Present: Hon. R. M. Gray (Chairman), Hon. J. J. Keswick (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. H. M. Bevis, A. Haupt, D. R. Law, A. M. Marshall, C. S. Sharp, N. A. Siebs, Hon. J. Thurburn (*ex officio*) and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).—

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous monthly meeting (held 7th August) were read and confirmed.

FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

The SECRETARY reported that a copy of the official report of the proceedings of the Congress had been received.

A letter from Hon. T. H. Whitehead, one of the Chamber's delegates, had also been received, explaining the reasons for his inability to attend the Congress, and detailing the steps he took to make the fact known in London by wiring when *en route*, and expressing his regret that he had been unavoidably prevented from being present to propose in person the resolutions entrusted to him.

A reply, expressing the Committee's appreciation of his efforts to carry out, as far as possible, his undertakings, was despatched to Mr. Whitehead on the 22nd August.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF LIGHTS AT GREEN ISLAND AND CAPE COLLINSON LIGHTHOUSES.

In conformity with the decision come to at the last meeting, a letter was, on the 10th August, addressed to the Government in reply to the above proposal, recommending its adoption, or, if the cost were not too great, to replace the existing fixed lights by flash or revolving lights.

The CHAIRMAN said that he understood the Public Works Department were going to take in hand shortly the change as proposed, rather than delay indefinitely to obtain specifications, &c., for revolving or flash lights, the cost of which might not eventually be sanctioned. The old D'Aguilar light for Green Island would have to be placed on the summit of the island in order to give it the required elevation, and the extra building involved would account to some extent for the estimated expense.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

Owing to the paucity of information of a reliable character received from North China, a letter was, on the 28th August, addressed to Reuter's Agent, asking that subscribers might be supplied with news from Peking or the Treaty Ports in lieu of some of the items usually given.

To this a reply was received on the following day, stating that the request made by the Chamber had been referred to the Head Office.

The Committee thought they had received a good deal more intelligence about China than before.

HONGKONG CONTRIBUTION TO THE EASTERN MAIL SUBSIDY.

Read letter, dated 31st August, from the Government, enclosing copy of official correspondence on the above subject, and asking whether the Chamber wished to supplement the remarks contained in its letter of the 5th June, 1897. Also a further letter, dated 8th September, requesting an early reply to above, as the matter was urgent.

The CHAIRMAN said—This question of the Postal subsidy was gone into very thoroughly by the Committee three years ago and an exhaustive letter was sent in to the Colonial Secretary on the 5th June, 1897, to which I do not think that much can be added, except in so far as circumstances have altered to the extent of there being more mail lines, now than there

were then; also that, owing to the opening of Weihaiwei and a decided increase in the Northern mails, Hongkong is in a worse position than before with the penny postage, which in itself is a source of reduced revenue. To save time, a letter has been drafted by the Secretary in reply to the Government, which I will read, and which I think embodies all the arguments that can be given as supplemental to our former letter.

The letter was then read, unanimously approved, and it was decided to send it in at once.

THE CRISIS IN PEKING.

The CHAIRMAN said—Hongkong, and I may say the Far East generally, receives hardly any official intimation of what is proceeding in the North. We have therefore to rely upon what is published by Reuter and other unofficial sources of information. These have pointed to a decided attempt by Russia and other Powers to persuade the Allies to retire from Peking, now that the Legations have been rescued, and to conduct negotiations for peace and future arrangements from Tientsin. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the probable effect that such a course would have throughout the length and breadth of China, as it would be at once construed into a sign of weakness on the part of foreigners. It is hardly probable that the British Government would acquiesce in such a retrograde movement, but it seems a time when all interested in China and the China trade should raise their voices in protest against such a palpable error. We have, therefore, as you are aware, wired a message to the London Chamber of Commerce and also forwarded a covering letter, which I will now read to you. I may add that a copy of the telegram was communicated to the Government, and a reply has been sent to Mr. E. W. Mitchell, who had addressed a letter to the Committee, asking if they intended protesting against the proposed withdrawal of the troops from Peking.

The following is the telegram referred to, sent on the 6th Sept., to the London Chamber of Commerce:—

"Please communicate Foreign Office as follows:—Hongkong Chamber Commerce earnestly advocates maintaining Allied Forces Peking until proper Government established and guilty officials punished. Earlier withdrawal most disastrous foreign prestige throughout China."

ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT MANILA.

Read letter, dated 28th August, from Secretary, announcing the organisation of an American Chamber of Commerce at Manila, and expressing readiness to correspond if it could be of use to members of the Hongkong Chamber.

QUARANTINE AGAINST HONGKONG.

The Committee then discussed the continuance of quarantine restrictions against vessels arriving from Hongkong at Singapore and other ports now that the Bubonic Plague has ceased to be epidemic and cases have dwindled to 3 or 4 in a week. It was decided to address the Government on the subject and urge the issue of a clean bill of health as soon as practicable.

This was all the business before the meeting.

The following is some of the correspondence referred to under the various heads:—

THE CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Threadneedle Street, London, E. C., 13th July, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I very sincerely regret to report that unavoidable untoward circumstances prevented my arriving in this country in time (I did not reach London until the evening of Saturday, 7th inst.) to attend the meeting of the Fourth Congress of the Chambers of the Empire, held in London on 26th to 29th ultimo, and propose the resolutions entrusted to me as one of the Chamber's delegates, bearing on the reduction of telegraph rates and fresh marine surveys in Eastern Seas, and to support the Chamber's other resolution in connection with the opening of the inland waters of China to steam navigation. Business detained me after my departure from Hongkong on 14th April last, at Shanghai, Tientsin, and Peking, and fearing that I might not arrive in time to attend the Congress I despatched the following telegrams to the Chartered Bank in London:—

From Vladivostock on 17th May, 1900:—
"Please advise Kenric Murray (Secretary) London Chamber of Commerce and Congress, detained Tientsin, Peking, by press of business, will most likely arrive too late to attend meeting Congress. I will telegraph from Moscow reasons supporting Hongkong Chamber's resolutions."

From Irkutsk on 15th June, 1900:—

"Refer telegram from Vladivostock on 17th May, please advise Congress Chambers and Thomas Jackson: telegraph subventions create monopoly, enable companies impose excessive onerous rates Europe Asia. Companies' aggregate undivulged earnings conclusive proof and justify demand for reasonable tariff. Latterly *Imperieuse* discovered uncharted rock Amoy Harbour, *Bonaventure* struck uncharted rock off Corea, *Namoa* total loss off uncharted rock Haitan Straits, *Chingtu* grounded off uncharted shoal North Australia, frequent discovery uncharted dangers, increasing steamers tonnage, etc. Eastern Seas require resurvey. Trade impossible until complete tariff under Chinese inland water navigation definitely negotiated and collection thereof guaranteed by formation separate branch foreign customs. Urge this and demand new workable rules in the interests of domestic and consequent increase of Foreign trade."

From Penza on 22nd June, 1900:—

"Irkutsk telegram of 15th June, please read telegraph subventions, concessions, privileges, &c., create monopoly; opening Chinese inland waterways concession completely worthless, refer Consul Hosie's Woochow 1899 report."

And from Moscow, 25th June, 1900:—

"Greatly regret too late attend meeting Congress. Inform Kenric Murray and Sir Thomas Jackson. Please telegraph whether Irkutsk Penza telegrams understood."

On 29th ultimo I received at St. Petersburg a reply from the Chartered Bank, London, intimating that my telegram had been received in an intelligible form and that the China speech had been well received.

I again beg to express my great regret at having been unavoidably prevented from attending the Congress as one of the Hongkong Chamber's Delegates. I endeavoured to do all that was possible under the unfortunate circumstances.

I am,

Your most obedient servant,
T. H. WHITEHEAD.

R. C. WILCOX, Esq.,

Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 22nd August, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th ult., expressing your regret that unforeseen circumstances prevented your arrival in England in time to attend the fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in London on 26th-29th June, and giving copies of the telegrams you despatched respectively from Vladivostock, Irkutsk, Penza, and Moscow, announcing probable inability to be present, and summarising your arguments in favour of the resolutions you had agreed, as one of the Delegates for this Chamber, to propose.

I am instructed by the Committee to say, in reply, that they fully appreciate the earnest desire they know you had to fulfil the duty you undertook, and thank you for the efforts you made to carry it out, so far as was possible, under the conditions.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD,
London.

THE CRISIS IN PEKING.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 7th September, 1900.

Sir,

Yesterday under instructions from my Committee, I despatched to your Chamber the following message by wire:—

"Chamber of Commerce, London.

"Please communicate Foreign Office as

follows:—Hongkong Chamber of Commerce earnestly advocates maintaining Allied Forces Peking until proper Government established and guilty officials punished. Earlier withdrawal most disastrous foreign prestige throughout China.

Chairman."

The Committee are in hopes that the East India and China Sections of your Chamber will lend a cordial support to this representation, which has been despatched in consequence of continuous public telegrams stating that some of the Powers contemplated ending the campaign with the relief of the Ministers and Peking residents.

The proposal, which it appears was first mooted by Russia, for the Allied Forces to evacuate Peking before any satisfaction has been obtained or reparation offered for the loss of life entailed through the action of the Chinese Government in directing the efforts of the Boxers to secure the extermination of all the Foreigners in China, seems to my Committee likely to be fraught with the most disastrous consequences if adopted.

It would be regarded by the Chinese of every rank as a confession of Western weakness and of the superiority of Chinese arms, and anti-foreign literature inciting to renewed violence and insults would quickly be in circulation throughout the eighteen Provinces, where, under any circumstances, the most garbled accounts will be given by the officials.

It is the conviction of the Foreign Residents in China that the present crisis has been brought on by the deliberate *mala fides* of the Empress Dowager and her creatures and unless a blow be now dealt at those in high places, and a demonstration be made of the strength and determination of the Allied Powers, there will soon be a fresh and more formidable, because better organised, effort made to sweep foreigners from the Chinese Empire.

Trusting that your Chamber will represent this well considered conclusion to the Noble Lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

K. W. MURRAY, Esq.,

Secretary, London Chamber of Commerce.

THE EASTERN MAIL SUBSIDY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
30th August, 1900.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 5th June, 1897, regarding the question of the Colonial contribution to the subsidy for the Eastern Mail Service, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber the enclosed copy of correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Treasury, and a copy of an award which was given by the Earl of Morley as Arbitrator upon the questions which arose as to the proportion of the cost of the Service to be done by the Government of India.

2. I am to request you to be good enough to lay these papers before the Chamber at an early date in order that they may, if they desire, supplement the remarks made in your letter above mentioned.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,

Chamber of Commerce.

Downing Street,
19th December, 1898.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 16834/98 of the 18th ultimo, respecting the apportionment of the cost of the Eastern Mail Service, and to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to cause this Department to be furnished with the accounts which, as stated in paragraph 2 of your letter, the Postmaster-General has been requested to furnish, as soon as they are ready.

I am, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

The SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

Treasury Chambers,
18th June, 1900.

SIR,

In reply to Mr. Lucas's letter of the 3rd April last, respecting the contributions to be made by Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Hongkong towards the cost of the Eastern Mail Service, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to say for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain that they are only now in a position to give an answer to his request for the accounts promised in the letter from this Department of the 18th November, 1898. The delay which has occurred has been due to the settlement of questions raised by the India Office as to the proper interpretation to be placed upon various passages of Lord Morley's award, and it has been necessary to refer some points again to his Lordship.

Lord Morley has now given his decision upon the points submitted to him, and his decision has been accepted by the Secretary of State for India in Council.

Amongst other things it has been decided that the Mails of the year 1901, the middle year of the contract, should be taken as the basis upon which the cost and earnings of the service should be apportioned between this country and India, and My Lords propose, if the Secretary of State should see no objection, to adopt the same course as regards the contributions of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Hongkong. If this course be followed the accounts cannot be furnished till after the figures of 1901 have been taken, and My Lords propose that in the meantime the contributions now made by these Colonies should be regarded as provisional and subject to adjustment in accordance with the results shown by the account to be taken next year.

The account will, my Lords anticipate, show that the contributions now paid by the Colonies are considerably less than the amounts properly due from them under the award, and will require to be increased accordingly.

I am, &c.,

E. W. HAMILTON.

The UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
Colonial Office.

Downing Street,
13th July, 1900.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 9732/1900 of 18th ultimo relative to the basis upon which the cost and earnings of the Eastern Mail Service should be apportioned so far as the Colonies of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Hongkong are concerned.

2. I am to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that their letter will be referred to the Government of the three Eastern Colonies for consideration, and I am to state that with the information at present before him, Mr. Chamberlain is unable to express any opinion as to acceptance of Lord Morley's award as a basis for the calculation of the future contribution of these Colonies or as to the proposals in the penultimate paragraph of your letter.

3. I am at the same time to enclose copy of a further despatch from the Officer Administering the Government of the Straits Settlements on the subject and to enquire what answer their Lordships would wish to be returned to it.

I am, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

The SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

[Copy.]

31, Prince's Gardens, S. W.,
November 8th, 1898.

MY LORDS,

1. In accordance with the request contained in your Lordship's letter of July 20th, I have enquired into the questions at issue between the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of State for India as to the proportion of the cost of the Eastern Mail Service to be charged to the Government of India.

2. The case of the Post Office and the case of the Indian Government, which were forwarded to me on July 27th, are annexed to this award.

3. I have had several interviews with Mr. J. J. Cardin, C.B., representing the Post Office,

and Mr. H. H. Kisch, the Postmaster-General of Bengal, who have argued the cases of their respective Governments before me.

4. Since Lord Halifax's award in 1876 circumstances have considerably changed, and on the occasion of each subsequent contract the Indian Government has raised questions of importance which have never been definitely settled. During the two contracts from 1880 to the present time the Indian contribution to the Mail Service has been fixed by a series of compromises, the details of which are given in the two cases. It was therefore necessary for me to go very fully into the principles which have regulated the apportionment of the cost of the service between the two countries.

5. On the conclusion of a new contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Company for the conveyance of the Eastern Mails and Australian Mails for seven years from February 1st, 1898, the Post Office made the following proposals:—

(a.) That of the total subsidy of £330,000, £85,000 should be regarded as applicable to the Australian service, leaving £245,000 to be taken as the cost of the Indian and Eastern Service.

(b.) That each country should retain its own collection of postage, as they have done since 1891.

(c.) That the cost of each of the seven sections into which the Mail route is divided, should be ascertained by dividing the subsidy in proportion to the annual mileage of each section. That one half the cost of the Section should be charged to the United Kingdom, the other half should be paid by India and the various Colonies interested in proportion to the number of letters sent and received by them. The United Kingdom paying for any letters which it exchanges with other countries.

That the incidental expenses should be divided in the same proportions as the cost of the service, and that the amounts received for sea-postage on foreign mails should be divided between the contributing countries in the proportion which each bears of the cost of the service. In its main principles, this is the mode in which the apportionment has been hitherto adjusted.

6. The Indian Government objects to these proposals on the following grounds:—

(a.) That the amount (£85,000) appropriated to the Australian service is too small.

(b.) That India should not be charged with any portion of the loss accruing on the sections between Colombo and Shanghai.

(c.) That, if each administration retains its postal collection, the share of the subsidy charged to India is too large having regard to the fact that the Mails from England to India are far heavier than the Mails from India to England.

The discrepancy between the homeward and outward mails or traffic in letters is not very great, but England sends to India about six times as many Newspapers, Circulars, &c., as she receives.

The following figures for the year 1896-7 were given to me:—

	From the United Kingdom.	From India and Aden.
Letters and Postcards	96,000 lbs.	83,800 lbs.
Newspapers, Circulars, &c.	1,561,200	259,400

The result, it is argued, is that the United Kingdom makes more use of the service than India, and also that the United Kingdom has the advantage of the larger collection of postage, whereas India has to bear the expense of distributing the heavier Mails.

7. To meet this case, the Indian Government suggests that a new principle should be adopted, viz:—that the Postal Union rules should be applied to the sea-transit, as if it were provided by a foreign Government, and that Postal Union rates should be charged on all Mails to the sending country.

As an alternative scheme it is stated in the Indian Case (Page xiii) that "India would be prepared to return to the arrangement for the pooling of postage and sea-postage which was in force from 1857 to 1891."

8. The Post Office on the other hand states that, if the principles of Lord Halifax's settlement are re-opened, there are various claims which can be equitably raised against India which have not been thus far pressed, e.g.—

(a.) The cost of extra speed on the Bombay line.

(b.) The cost of sea-sorting (£7,500) which is alleged, was established at the instance and for the benefit of India.

9. After a careful consideration of the two cases, and of the arguments used in support of them, I have arrived at the following conclusions:—

(a.) That, as regards the Australian service, the arrangement proposed by the Post Office should be adopted during the continuance of the contract and that £85,000 should be appropriated to that service. When the present contract expires, it appears to me that it would be desirable to enter into separate contracts for the two services.

(b.) That, as regards the sections between Colombo and Shanghai, India should not continue to be made liable for any loss which may be incurred on these sections, but that she should pay transit rates for any use she may make of this portion of the Mail route. The receipts from such transit rates being credited to the sections.

(c.) That the postage collected in the two countries, and the receipts from other administrations for land and sea transit on Mails sent over the line should be pooled, and the balance of the united collections, after deducting the cost of continental transit and rates paid to other countries, should be equally divided.

(d.) That, subject to the above mentioned conditions, the apportionment with the principles laid down in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Post Office with this exception, that the Indian Government should bear the whole expense of sea-sorting on the Bombay line which by Article 35 of the contract is fixed at £7,500. Under this article, the Postmaster-General may give notice to the Company that he no longer requires provision to be made for sea-sorting and may deduct £7,500 from the subsidy. I understand that he would be willing to give this notice if the Indian Government desires him to do so.

(e.) That an account should be prepared by the Imperial Post Office and audited by the India Office, and that the amounts thus ascertained shall be payable by the contributing countries to the end of the contract.

I have, &c.,

MORLEY.

The LORDS COMMISSIONERS
OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

Hongkong, General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong 11th September, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo (No. 1685) transmitting for the information of this Chamber copy of correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Treasury on the question of the colonial contribution to the subsidy for the Eastern Mail Service and copy of an award given by the Earl of Morley as arbitrator upon the questions which arose as to the proportion of the cost of the service to be borne by the Government of India and asking whether this Chamber desires to supplement the remarks made on the subject in their letter of the 5th June, 1897.

This correspondence has received the attention of my Committee, who instruct me to say that they simply wish to reiterate and emphasise the remarks made in the letter above alluded to. They protest now as then most emphatically against a mileage basis being adopted to estimate the proportion of this Colony's share of the mail subsidy; and they would point out that, since that letter was written, Imperial interests north of Hongkong have largely developed not alone by the growth of British trade in China but also by the acquisition of the port of Weihaiwei.

The arguments used in paragraph 6 of the letter have since been strengthened by the fact that the German mail steamers now run fortnightly instead of monthly as formerly and that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha maintain a regular service to London, via Marseilles.

The inclusion of Hongkong among those Colonies compelled to adopt the penny postal rate within the Empire—a step taken by the Imperial Government in spite of the representations of the local Postmaster-General that it would be a loss to the Colonial Treasury—has had the effect of reducing the revenue of the Post Office Department, which, in 1899, showed

a decline of \$19,270 on the previous year, mainly due to loss on sale of postage stamps. This furnishes another strong argument why this colony should not be called upon to make good the losses on correspondence passing through it to the Chinese Treaty Ports.

Sincerely trusting that the Imperial Government may be induced to adopt a more equitable and reasonable basis than that of mileage in calculating the Colony's contribution to the Postal subsidy.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

HON. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF LIGHTS.
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 10th August, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. (No. 1395) announcing that the Government has had under its consideration the question of the advisability of transferring the Cape D'Aguilar light to Green Island and the light at present on Green Island to Cape Collinson with a view to improving both lights and rendering the approaches to the harbour safer for shipping, and asking the opinion of this Chamber upon the proposed transfers, as to whether the expenditure involved would be justified by the advantages to be gained.

The Committee have carefully considered the question after obtaining the opinion of experts, and they are quite satisfied that the advantages to be secured would greatly outweigh the cost. They are further of opinion that this outlay might be judiciously increased in making provision for the substitution of revolving or flash-lights on Green Island and Cape Collinson, since the present fixed lights are not always distinguishable from the lights on junks, especially in thick weather, always provided that the cost for the same is not excessive.

It has also been suggested to the Committee that, as an aid to shipping entering from the eastward, the fog signal at Waglan should be fired at regular intervals, say every minute, instead of, as at present, only on a steamer's whistle being heard.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

HON. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

LOCAL MOVEMENTS.

On the 13th inst. the German cruiser *Bussard* arrived from Kiel.

The *Wardha* arrived on the 14th inst. on her second journey from Calcutta, bringing the Bikaner Infantry (5 British and 14 native officers, 388 N.C.O.'s and men, with 95 followers), and details of the 15th B.F.H., Signalling Units, No. 6 Brigade Supply Column, etc., and 7 British and one native officer, with followers, of the Staff of the 4th Brigade. Major H. H. the Maharajah of Bikaner arrived by this transport.

The transport *Ballaarat* returned on the 14th inst. from Shanghai.

The *City of Cambridge*, *Jelunga*, and *Putiala* left on the 14th inst. for Bombay, while the *Ashraf* proceeded on her way to Taku.

On the 15th inst. the transports *Rewa* and *Sunda* returned from Taku, and the *Clive* from Shanghai.

The *Lalpoora*, British transport, left on the 15th for Taku, as did the French transport *Adour*. The *Lavada* left for Calcutta.

The Italian transport *San Gottardo* arrived on the 16th from Singapore.

The German transport *Strassburg* arrived on Sunday night on her way north.

The British transport *Pundua* left on Sunday night for Taku, while the *Clive* and *Rewa* returned to Bombay.

On the 17th inst. the French transport *Melbourne* arrived from Marseilles, which she left on the 12th ult., with 29 officers and 1,088 troops on board.

The Portuguese cruiser *Adamastor* on Sunday night returned to Macao.

On the 17th inst. the British transport *Sunda* left for Bombay.

The *Jelunga* also left for Bombay, taking a number of invalids, time-expired men and transfers, as well as the wives and families of Lieut.-Col. Wheeler, A. O. D., Major Whitty, R. A. M. C., and Capt. Langhorne, R. A.

H. M. S. *Argonaut* went out on the 17th inst. for a cruise, returning on the 22nd.

On Monday night the British transport *Sumatra* left for Taku. She was followed on the 18th inst. by the German transport *Strassburg* and the French transport *Melbourne*.

The German cruisers *Hertha* and *Bussard* left on the 18th inst., the former for Shanghai and the latter for Amoy.

The Italian transport *San Gottardo* left on Tuesday night for Taku.

The British gunboat *Protector* left on the 19th inst. for Shanghai.

H.M.S. *Britomart* left the harbour for Canton yesterday morning. As the *Argonaut* was still out on a cruise, Hongkong was left without any man-of-war to protect the harbour.

The British transport *Itaura* arrived yesterday from Calcutta with the D Squadron of the Jodpore Lancers (one British and 3 native officers, 118 men, and 78 followers), part of the 61st Native Field Hospital, some details of the 34th Pioneers and the following officers—General H. Pipon, Col. W. T. Shone, Major J. L. Day, Capt. James and Coxhead, Capt. Sir Pertab Singh, and Lieut. Bing-Bing.

The *Ula* returned from Taku.

The U.S. transport *Meade* left for Manila.

Yesterday the *Itaura* left for Bombay, and the French transport *Caledonien* arrived from the south.

ARRIVAL OF COUNT VON WALTERSEE.

Among the arrivals by the German mail steamer *Sachsen* on Tuesday morning were Count von Waldersee and staff. The Count was accorded the salute due to his rank and was called upon by Captain the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, A. D. C. to H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, C. M. G. The Count landed at Murray Pier at one o'clock, being received by a guard of honour composed of men belonging to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The Count called at Government and Headquarter Houses, and in the evening resumed his voyage north on the *Hertha*.

A DESPAIRING EDICT.

Our Wuchow correspondent writes, under date 12th September:—An Imperial Edict, despairing in tone, has been sent by telegram from Taiuen (the capital of Shansi) in which the Emperor assumes the responsibility for the foreign troubles which have overtaken China; but implies that, as these troubles did not arise in a day, there may possibly be some other causes, not altogether unconnected with the people themselves, as a reason for them. He urges on the provincial officials the necessity of assistance being given—in what particular form is not stated—and also of protecting foreigners, respecting treaties &c., &c. This Edict was received in the South on or about September 11th.

PEKING NEWS.

The N.-C. *Daily News* special correspondent gives the following description of the triumphal march of the Allies through the Sacred City, Peking, on the 28th ult.:—

"A triumphal march of a portion of the Allies through the Palace took place this morning, and was an imposing and successful pageant. 800 Russians, 400 British, 200 Germans, with some Americans, Japanese, French, Italians and Austrians, entered in the following order: Russians, Japanese, British, Americans, French, Germans, Italians, and Austrians. Previous to this a salute of 21 guns had been fired by the British. The weather was beautiful for this parade through the deserted precincts of the Sacred City from North to South. The greater part of the palace was unvisited, as the troops marched straight through. A few Palace servants were the only spectators. Generally speaking everything was in a state of magnificent decay, the spacious courtyards being weed-grown.

"The troops were enthusiastic, particularly the Russians, whose band played national airs as the

various detachments passed out. The Russian General Linevitch reviewed the troops before the start, and congratulated General Gaselee on the appearance of the Indian contingent. He hoped they would always be friends. General Gaselee replied that he was pleased to be associated with so fine a force of Russians. The various Ministers were present. The only music of the British force was the Indian contingent's bagpipes.

"The strange suggestion that correspondents should be excluded, and the affair kept private, was not adopted.

"The Japanese have succeeded in communicating with Prince Ching, who is also said to have authority from the Emperor regarding the arrangements of a future government."

Another correspondent of the same paper writes:—"Peking is fast becoming a desolation.

Even the beggars have departed, and a strange quiet rests over the entire city. It is only a few days since the siege was raised, yet in that time the people have found a way to appeal for mercy or claim protection. Wherever there is a single Chinaman, there is seen either one of the flags floating over his home, or, more often, a white piece of cloth is hung out, on which are the two words, 'obedient (loyal) people,' and usually mentioning some 'great' country to which they are 'obedient.' As the Japanese have been quick to use the knife, the number who state themselves to be loyal to Japan outnumbers all the rest put together."

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

DEATHS AND ESCAPES.

According to news received from the North it would seem that quite a number of the Princes, Dukes and Nobles belonging to the Imperial and the Manchu clans did not after all accompany the Empress Dowager on her flight to the West, some being massacred by Prince Tuan on the charge of intending to betray the Capital to the foreign troops, whilst many escaped to their country estates, North-east of Peking, where they are now supposed to be. The following, says the N.-C. *Daily News*, is a list of the higher Court officials who either accompanied, or followed, the Empress Dowager to Shansi, according to a local vernacular paper:—Princes Ching (since left for Peking), Tuan, Chuang, Su, and Na Yen-tu, 1st Order; Princes Lun and Su, 4th Order; Dukes Kuei (father-in-law of Emperor), Hsin, P'u, K'ung (descendant of Confucius), Chih, and Lan; the Assistant Grand Secretaries Kang Yi and Wang Wen-shao; Chao Shu-shiao, President of the Board of Punishments, Ying Nein, Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; several members of the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department, all of the members of the Imperial College of Physicians, and about one-half of the Imperial Bodyguards of the Presence doing duty at the Chien-tsing Gate of the Imperial Palace. The following military officers in command of brigades accompanied the Empress Dowager as escort: General Su Lu-tai (Manchu), with a brigade of the Peking Field Force; Duke P'u, with a brigade of the Hushang Army Corps (Prince Tuan's own troops); General Ma, with brigade of General Sung Ching's Army Corps, and General Ts'ên, with two brigades of General Tung Fuhsiang's Kansu Army Corps.

Reliable despatches from the North give the following list of high officials in Peking and elsewhere who have met death, since the troubles up North, either by their own hand, or executed or slain by the enemy's bullets: Yu Lu, Viceroy of Chihli, suicide, after taking of Tientain by the allies; General Nieh, Commander-in-Chief of Chihli provincial forces, slain during taking of Tientain; Li Ping-heng, notorious High Commissioner of the Yangtze provinces, slain during battle at Hsaiwu; Hsu Ching-cheng, Yuan Chang, Hsu Yung-yi and Lien Yuan, Ministers of the Tsungli, Ting Chieh, Provincial Treasurer of Chihli, formerly a Boxer chief, Chin Sing, President of the Board of Revenue, Li Shan, Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, Shou Ts'un, Hanlin, Ch'ên Hsiao-fen, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, and many others, names not transpired, executed by orders of Prince Tuan or murdered by his Boxers; and finally the Grand Secretary Hsu Tung, the most conservative of conserva-

tives in Peking, and Wang Yi-yung, President of the Imperial Academy, suicide with their respective families, old and young then residing in the North. With reference to Hsü Tung, who was over 80 years of age, he fled to a country farm-house of his some 12 miles east of Peking upon the arrival of the Allied troops near the Capital, and upon learning of the flight of the Empress Dowager he committed suicide, accompanied at the same time by his sons, grandsons, and most of their women and children. There are rumours of Hsü Tong having committed suicide in the Wuying Throne-hall, he being its Keeper, but this is doubtful in the face of late and more reliable news. Wang Yi-yung, the above noted President of the Imperial Academy, committed suicide with his whole family in Peking on the arrival of the Allied troops there and it is stated that over 200 families of high officials did the same thing at the time.

NEWS VIA JAPAN.

JAPAN TO WITHDRAW FROM PEKING.

As the result of repeated conferences at the official residence of the Prime Minister during the last few days, the Minister of War sent a despatch a few days, the *Japan Times* understands, instructing Lieut-General Baron Yamaguchi now in Peking, to send home one brigade, that is, half of the force under him. It is further stated that the Ministers are of opinion that in view of the existing state of things in Peking there will not occur any extensive fighting in China, in the immediate future at any rate. Even if there should take place some collisions, the allies are no longer in such small force as they were at first and they will be able to meet with emergencies. Under the circumstances the Cabinet considers that there is no reason that Japan alone should keep a large force in the field. In the event, however, of the renewal of hostilities necessitating the despatch of another expedition, the geographical position of Japan will enable her to send again all the forces required at a short notice, which the other Powers cannot do. The withdrawal, above referred to, will therefore be of a different kind from that proposed by Russia, who proposes to call her troops back only to Tientsin.

PEKING NEGOTIATIONS.

Telegrams to Tokyo from Japanese correspondents at Shanghai state that the conference at Peking between Prince Ching and the Foreign Representatives proved a failure, owing to the refusal of the Russian Minister and the German Acting Minister to take part in the proceedings. The Russian Minister's refusal was based on the ground that he had been ordered by his home Government to withdraw from the capital, and the acting German Minister declared that no one but Dr. Mumm Von Schwarzenstein, the newly-appointed Minister, then on his way to China, has been authorized to represent the German Government.

Great Britain, it is stated from the same source, has decided to withdraw a portion of her troops from Peking, regardless of the Russian proposals for the evacuation of the city. It is believed that the other Powers, with the exception of Russia, will follow her example.

Prince Ching has been ordered to interview the Foreign Ministers separately instead of meeting them collectively.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

There are no signs of the Russian forces preparing to evacuate Peking, but it is stated that the Russian Minister will shortly withdraw from the capital. It is stated that a private understanding has been arrived at between Russia and Viceroy Li Hung-chang, whereby the latter promises to obtain for Russia railway and mining concessions in North China. Russia, on her part, has offered to supply China with a loan for the purpose of releasing China from her financial obligations to Great Britain.

VICEEROY LIU ASKS FOR BRITISH TROOPS.

Viceroy Liu Kung-yi has asked Great Britain to land troops at various towns along the Yangtze, so as to prevent Germany from intruding into the Valley.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We take the following from the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 1st inst. The Bengal

Sappers and Miners have not been allowed to go to sleep in Peking evidently. They were on the 23rd ult. given the gentle little task of perforating a tunnel through Peking's little sixty-foot wall, for the purpose of easier access in getting forage.—A greater part of the Tsungli Yamên building is burnt, we regret to say, and it is impossible to say where the documents are stored; but we hope that some valuable finds will be made, as there should be evidence of much more valuable nature there than was found here.—When the Tsungli Yamên was first occupied by the Allies the troops of each nationality secured the box containing the despatches and memoranda of their respective governments, and sealed them up so that the contents remain private. What is of most interest is to know who has secured the Chinese documents, if any have been secured.—It is said that sometime towards the end of May, about three or four days before Fengtai was destroyed a meeting of the Grand Council was held and it was decided there and then to exterminate the foreigners in Peking, but owing to the usual want of promptitude on the part of the Chinese in carrying out anything official, they delayed the massacre until it was too late; the foreign guards arrived on the scene. This is from Chinese sources, but may be correct.—Several foreigners who managed immediately after the relief of the Peitang to get inside the Imperial grounds, and even into the Palace, describe the Dowager's apartments as suggesting Lowther Arcade, the best of artistic China, and gilt-edged Paris in a curious medley. Her flight had been genuinely hasty it appears, as one observant visitor noted a slipper thrown off near the bed, and various articles of toilet lying about. Everything had to be left intact, but trifling mementos such as a fan or a scent bottle were brought away by the lucky few who got in. The Palace was found guarded within and without by Russians, and though they were asked subsequently to retire until some decision had been definitely arrived at, they still, we believe, held the keys.

RUSSIANS IN CHINESE TURKESTAN.

The following telegram from Urumtsi, the provincial capital of Chinese Turkestan (Kashgaria and Ili) has been published:—Owing to news of troubles with Foreign Powers at Peking having become known here and to the fact that the Tarantchis (Kashgar Mahomedans settled in Ili) were beginning to become restless, Jao, Governor of the province, sent a large force of cavalry from Urumtsi to Kuldja to overawe the malcontents. On arriving at the Pass dividing Urumtsi from Ili, however, the force was stopped by officers sent by the Tartar General Chang Kêng, commanding at Kuldja, stating that he had received a despatch from the Russian General commanding on the Russo-Ili frontier that "any reinforcements sent into Ili would be taken as an act of war, and that the Russians would invade Ili if the arriving Chinese force did not return to Urumtsi." The Chinese troops have therefore temporarily retired to the Urumtsi or Eastern side of the Pass, and will await further orders from the Viceroy at Lanchow.

The launch of the largest steamer built in Shanghai took place on the 11th inst. at Messrs. Boyd & Co.'s yard at Pootung. The vessel as she left the ways was christened the *Tung-ting*. She is constructed of mild steel throughout and her dimensions are:—length over all, 279 feet; length between perpendiculars, 270 feet; breadth moulded, 42 feet; depth moulded, 10 ft. The engines are of the inverted triple expansion surface condensing type. The h. p. cylinder is 12 inches diameter; intermediate 21 inches diameter; low pressure 34 inches diameter; with a 27-inch stroke. The boilers are of mild steel and are 12 feet 3 inches diameter and 11 feet long, and will carry a working pressure of 190 pounds. They are arranged for both forced and natural draught. The tonnage is 2,050 tons gross, and 1,273 tons nett. Her speed is calculated to be between 10½ and 11 knots. She is fitted for carrying eight saloon passengers (Foreign) 40 first-class (Chinese), 214 steerage (Chinese). She has an electric installation. The *Tung-ting* is an addition to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's fleet sailing in Chinese waters.

HER MAJESTY'S MESSAGES TO PEKING.

The following Messages have been received in Peking:—

Telegram from Her Majesty to Sir Claude MacDonald:—"Warmest congratulations on your safety after such a terrible time of anxiety to us all. Trust you, Lady MacDonald and children are well, as well as all the others."

VICTORIA R. I."

Telegram to Officer Commanding British Marine Guard (Capt. Wray):—"I thank God that you and those under your command are rescued from your perilous situation. With my people I have waited with the deepest anxiety for the good news of your safety and a happy termination to your heroic and prolonged defence. I grieve for the losses and sufferings experienced by the besieged."

VICTORIA R. I."

AMOY.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Amoy, 11th September.

THE PROGRESS OF AFFAIRS.

On the 31st August one of the Japanese sentries invaded the British Consulate premises; the constable ordered him off, getting a lot of insolence in return. The matter was reported to the Acting Japanese Consul. The Consul, Mr. Uyeno, has left for Tamsui and Tokyo; rumour says he has been recalled, but I hear he returns at the end of the month. One day four local watchmen were taken prisoners and put on board a man-of-war by the Japanese; two managed to escape, and the Taotai obtained the release of the other.

A WEDDING.

On the 2nd a quiet wedding took place at the Spanish Consulate, Mr. G. Bocker of the I. M. Customs to Miss Marie Louise Mareton. The bride was given away by Mr. Dunne, French Consul, while Mr. Maze of the I. M. Customs officiated as best man.

THE BRITISH WITHDRAWAL.

The withdrawal of the British Guard took place at about 9 a.m. on the 7th, with rather an imposing ceremony, the flag being slowly lowered from Butterfield & Swire's flagstaff, the whole guard of British Marines and Blue-jackets presenting arms, and the officers saluting. There were present the captains of the *Isis*, *Castine*, *Tiger*, and the senior Japanese captain in port, the American Consul and the Taotai. The guard then embarked, the Japanese doing the same a few minutes after. The departure of the British Guard, it is said, was very much regretted by the Chinese, and I think the guard were sorry also, for they had very comfortable quarters, and were rather well looked after by the community. Mr. Simpson, the ever-thoughtful Commissioner of Customs, gave them free access to the Customs Library and Club, which they very much appreciated. Some of the men said they could "do a few months here very comfortably." During their stay on shore there was not occasion for a single complaint.

IN THE HARBOUR.

There are 4 Japanese, 1 American, 1 British and 1 French man-of-war in port. During the week the *Rurik* called twice, and the *Mohawk*, *Humber* and the German *Schwalbe* also visited us.

A VISITOR FROM FOOCOW.

The Foochow Taotai came down to settle things, and, I believe, had several conferences with the Consuls, the result being the withdrawal of the guards. Yesterday evening he gave a dinner at the Amoy Hotel, at which there were present the British Consul and Assistant, U.S. Consul and Vice Consul, Japanese Consul, and six Chinese Officials.

THE REFUGEES.

The people who cleared out are returning and everything is quiet. Several shops have been reopened, but the banks and pawnshops still remain closed. I hear several of the male missionaries want to return to the interior, but they must first get permission from Consuls and Taotai or go at their own risk.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 15th September.
THE UNEMPLOYED.

On account of the troubles in the North and the consequent closing of many shops there and elsewhere, the business of Canton has been very much paralysed, and between five and six thousand labourers were thrown out of employment. The Nam Hoi Magistrate the other day called a meeting of the head men of the guilds and gentry, and proposed to enlist half of the number as soldiers; but as to the other half the head men promised to find work for them.

A BLACK FLAG CHIEF COMES BACK.

With regard to the report that Linyungfu, the Black Flag General, has taken 5,000 soldiers to the North by the overland route, it is now said that he and his troops are coming back, seeing that there is no use proceeding further.

SUN YAT SEN AGAIN.

It is rumoured that Sun Yat Sen the reformer, who, it may be remembered, was suspected two years ago of smuggling arms into Canton and trying to raise a rebellion in Kwangtung in the time of the late Viceroy Tan, and who in consequence was said to have taken refuge in Japan and other places, is gathering his followers and enlisting soldiers somewhere about the West river, and acting in conjunction with his colleague Kang Yu-wei, intends to march up to the North to wreak vengeance upon the vicious mandarins, and help the Foreign Powers to restore order.

LOCAL RUMOURS.

All the newspapers having been suppressed here, the bad characters a few days ago started a fresh rumour just the contrary of the foreign version, to the following effect: that 20,000 foreign soldiers were killed by the Chinese troops; that the Foreign Powers had to withdraw their troops from Peking, and pay an indemnity to China; that the Foreign Powers are to forfeit their treaty rights, and all the ports are to be closed against foreign commerce; that Kwang Hsu is to be reinstated, and the Empress Dowager banished; that Kang Yu-wei is to be recalled to be minister in place of Li Hung-chang; and that all missionaries are to be excluded from China. Another rumour is to the effect that there are thirteen Foreign Powers waging war against China, of whom Japan is most powerful because she reached Peking first and did most of the fighting work; that China has to pay to them 13 million taels; that in each treaty port there will be two foreign Consuls to guide the mandarins in governing the people; and that any native converts who repent, and are willing to follow Confucianism again, are at liberty to do so.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE TROUBLES.

The literary examinations in all the provinces have been postponed this year in consequence of the Peking trouble, as it was feared that by their anti-foreign proclivities the *literati* might raise trouble and incite the populace to riot. The Waising farmers, some residing in Canton and some in Macao, have taken steps to forward their claim to the local mandarins for a refund of part of the monopoly money. It will take some time yet to get it back.

A CANTON ROMANCE.

In the Cha Fan Street, Old City, there lived a woman, by name Ayee, of the age of 22, described as beautiful and fascinating in manner; and in the same house there also lived a poor widow Lao-she to keep her company. Of late Ayee had made the acquaintance of a young Buddhist priest, who in the disguise of a layman, with a false queue, paid her visits so very frequently as to rouse the suspicions of the neighbours, who reported the matter to some soldiers of the garrison near by. About a dozen soldiers were lying in wait to catch a view of the pleasure-seeking priest. On the 12th inst., between 8 and 9 p.m., as he was in the house, they burst open the door, and rushing in caught the pair in a *tête-à-tête*. Without loss of time the intruders plucked off the false queue of the bonze, tied him up hand and foot, and beat him. Mrs. Lao, hearing the noise in the next room, and imagining that it was a burglary, rushed up stairs to the roof and gave the alarm by sounding a gong and shouting out for help, which attracted all the neighbours to the spot. The priest crouching

down with tears in his eyes pleaded hard for mercy. He said that Ayee was betrothed to him when quite a girl, and had been married to him; that on account of family trouble he went into a convent and turned a priest, and that he came to pay her a visit. As according to the religious tenets of Buddhism a priest should live in celibacy, he was compelled to pay a squeeze of 40 to 50 dollars before he was allowed to depart.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' CHINA RELIEF FUND.

REPORT OF THE LADIES' WORKING COMMITTEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Head Quarter House, Hongkong.
15th September.

Sir,—You were kind enough some three weeks ago, through the instrumentality of various subscribers in Hongkong, to forward us the sum of 375 dollars, which was further augmented by 100 dollars from Major-General Gascoigne, making 475 dollars in all.

This was handed over to our committee, to spend in the manner we considered most advisable for the use of the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors at the front (in China), and a number of ladies were kind enough to volunteer their services in the making up of the materials.

We have now the honour to inform you that we have spent the money in the following manner, and the articles in question have been forwarded by us to Colonel Prendergast, R.E., Commissioner at Weihaiwei, for distribution by him as he sees fit:—

- 40 Flannel Shawls.
- 55 Sets of Pyjamas.
- 12 Flannel Bedjackets.
- 10 Dozen Woollen vests.
- 12 Dozen pair of socks.
- 6 Knitted waistcoats.

In addition to these, we have also included 10 books of short stories kindly forwarded by Mrs. R. Chatterton Wilcox.

May we also take this opportunity of thanking all those ladies who so kindly helped us in the work, and those subscribers who enabled us to send these comforts to our comrades in the North?—We have the honour to remain, yours obediently.

H. GASCOIGNE. } Members
A. E. BERTIE. } Ladies Work-
J. TURNER. } ing Committee.
A. CLIEVE. }

[We have still a balance of subscriptions in hand, but as it is possible a base hospital may shortly be established in Hongkong, when similar articles will be needed, we hold over this balance in view of its possible requirement.—Ed. D. P.]

TRIAL TRIP OF THE
S.S. "NANNING."

The trial trip of the new steel sternwheel steamer *Nanning* took place on Saturday, 15th inst. The vessel is the first of two building by Messrs. Geo. Fenwick & Co., intended for the West River trade, her sister ship, the *Saiam*, being now ready for launching.

The principal dimensions of *Nanning* are:—Length over all 168 feet, Breadth moulded 31 feet, Draft of water with 170 tons cargo, 4 feet. The passenger accommodation is extensive. On the main deck are two large compartments with berths for 64 natives, and a separate room for women with 16 berths; the crew's quarters are on this deck at the forward end. The saloon deck has accommodation for 16 second class passengers and a women's room with 8 berths; forward of these are the officers and first class passengers' state rooms, boys' rooms, lavatories, &c. Above the saloon deck is the pilot house and Captain's room, lifeboats, and appliances for navigating the vessel. The electric light is installed throughout, thus reducing the danger

of fire to a minimum, as no kerosene or naked lights will be required in any part of the vessel. On Saturday night the ship was lighted up by electricity, when she presented a brilliant spectacle. The machinery deserves special mention and speaks volumes for the resourcefulness of Messrs. Fenwick & Co. in being able so successfully to carry out a work of this magnitude, so different to their ordinary type, without dislocating their usual business: special appliances had to be devised for machining some of the heavy parts, and a new cupola was constructed for making the large castings, all of which turned out successfully. We may mention that the low pressure cylinder weighed 3½ tons. The engines are compound surface condensing, diameters of pistons 18" and 38", and length of stroke 6 feet. The cylinders are fixed on to steel joists on the main deck, which are extended to carry the paddle wheel. The latter consists of 14 wood floats secured to steel rims, the diameter from centre to centre of floats is 17 feet and revolutions of the wheel 24 per minute. Water is circulated through the condenser by a separate rotary pump, which with the Air, Feed and Bilge pumps is in a compartment underneath the engine room. The Dynamo and Motor are in the engine room, where is fitted an elaborate system of switch boards; there are also switches in various parts of the vessel, so that the officer on watch may control any section without having to send messages to the engine room; on account of the distance to the pilot house being great, a speaking tube is fitted between it and the engine room, and the reply telegraph has two standards on the bridge and "Tell-tale" arrangement showing the direction in which the engines are running. The Boiler is 13 feet in diameter and carries a pressure of 120 lbs. steam; forced draft is provided by a separate engine driving an air impeller 5 feet diameter: the change from 'forced' to 'natural' draft can be effected in a few minutes. A steam Windlass and Capstan are fitted forward, the anchors are Trotman's patent, and Cables to Lloyd's test.

On the trip the machinery ran well, and the smoothness and easy handling of the main engines were noticeable. Unfortunately no speed trial could be taken as, owing to the very light draught of the vessel, and the position of the orifices for inlet of condensing water being near the wheel, immediately on a high speed being attained the centrifugal pump became charged with air, and consequently refused to work: this defect was discovered at the preliminary trial a few weeks ago, and in consequence an additional injection valve was fitted, but apparently is not sufficient to overcome the difficulty. Other devices will be tried, and before the vessel is placed on her run the high speed expected by her owners and builders will have been attained.

The following gentlemen were present:—Mr. Lowe and Mr. W. Ramsay, Superintendent Engineer (representing Messrs. Butterfield and Swire); Mr. Yule (representing the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.); Mr. A. Sinclair, Superintendent Engineer (representing Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co.); Messrs. A. Rodger, Director, W. G. Winterburn, General Manager, J. Andrew, Superintendent Engineer, and W. Merry, Engineer, for the builders (Messrs. Geo. Fenwick and Co., Ltd.); the representatives from the three local newspapers, and guests. It was a fine afternoon, and refreshments were provided in the saloon, and with the exception of the fact that the pump was not working as well as was anticipated, there was nothing to interfere with the success of the trip.

According to a London telegram dated August 31st, it was on that date officially certified that eleven cases of bubonic plague had broken out in Glasgow. The *British Medical Journal* in discussing the subject doubts whether even the vigilant medical officers of health at our numerous seaports are in a position to deal with imported cases of plague as promptly as desirable. That journal further points out that while there is no need for alarm, it is not convinced that we are not liable to have cases of plague occurring in seaport towns and in large cities, and it urges the Local Government Board to issue information, so that every medical man shall know immediately what to do.

V. R. C. AQUATIC SPORTS.

Umpires.—Messrs. M. A. A. de Souza and E. D. Sanders.
Referee.—Mr. W. Armstrong.
Starter.—Mr. G. A. Caldwell.
Official Time-keeper.—Mr. G. P. Lammert.
Handicappers.—Messrs. Thos. Yule and E. M. Hazeland.

The annual aquatic sports in connection with the V. R. C. commenced on the 21st inst., taking place near the new bathing premises erected by the club for temporary use at Kowloon. There was a fair attendance. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) and Viscount Suidale looked over in the Victoria during the proceedings. The club championship again fell to one of the Brothers Alves, "A. E." coming in first this year. "A. A." was the winner last year and the year before. In the final heat for the members' race there was a tough struggle between H. A. Lammert and A. A. Alves, but Lammert just managed to pull it off. The first prize for plunging was won by A. Loureiro, last year's winner (F. M. Roza Pereira) coming second. The distances covered were 52 feet and 11 feet, against 45 ft. 10½ inches, and 44 ft. 9 in. last year. The following are the details of the different events:—

Club Championship (three lengths).—Prize presented by Mr. E. M. Hazeland

A. E. Alves	1
A. A. Alves	2
R. Lapsley	3

Time 71 secs. net. At the end of the first length the Alves were ahead of Lapsley, "A. A." being first. Lapsley was still further behind at the end of the second length. During the third length "A. E." forged ahead and won.

Plunging.—Two prizes.

A. Loureiro	1
F. M. Roza Pereria	2
F. D. Bain	0
F. K. Tata	0
M. A. Razack	0
J. H. R. Hance	0
R. Lapsley	0
A. A. Alves	0
C. E. Ellis	0
F. W. White	0
J. C. Logan	0

Loureiro's distance was 52 feet and Pereira's 51 feet.

Member's Race (four lengths).—Two prizes.
 First and second in each heat to swim in final.

First Heat.

R. Lapsley, owes 24 secs	1
A. A. Alves, owes 30 secs	2
N. H. Alves, owes 20 secs	0
C. M. S. Alves, owes 9 secs	0
A. J. Mackie, "go"	0

Second Heat.

H. A. Lammert, owes 10	1
A. E. Alves, owes 26	2
F. D. Bain, owes 10	0
J. H. R. Hance, owes 14	0

Final Heat.

Lammert	1
A. A. Alves	2

Time 2 min. 3½ secs.

Four Lengths (Army Navy, and Police).—Two prizes.

Bandsman Gregory	1
Bandsman Hagg	2
Lance-Serjt R. Burrell	0
C. Sheehan, Kowloon Naval Depot	0
H. Wanless	0
G. C. Entwistle	0
Joseph Crabb	0

TEAM RACE.

The following teams had entered:—

No. 1 Team.	No. 2 Team.
1. R. Lapsley (Capt.)	1. J. H. R. Hance (Capt.)
2. N. H. Alves.	2. H. A. Lammert.
3. F. D. Bain.	3. C. M. S. Alves.
4. J. M. Roza Pereira.	4. R. Henderson.
5. A. Loureiro.	5. J. C. Logan.
6. F. K. Tata.	6. F. W. White.
No. 3 Team.	
1. Frank Jorge (Capt.)	
2. F. Herbst.	
3. F. M. Roza Pereira.	
4. M. A. Razack.	
5. A. J. MacKie.	
6. O. I. Ellis.	

No. 1 team came in first and No. 2 second.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting in connection with the Hongkong Cricket Club was held in the Pavilion on Monday evening, 17th inst. In the absence of Mr. A. G. Wise (President), Mr. F. Maitland occupied the chair, and he was supported by Mr. P. A. Cox (Acting Hon. Secretary), and Captain Langhorne.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, in the absence of our President, Mr. Justice Wise, I have been deputed by your Committee to occupy the chair at this meeting, and in the usual way I will take the report and accounts which have been in your hands for about a fortnight as read. The accounts require some explanation; on the face of them the Club is only \$4.24 better off than when the previous account was submitted, but as a matter of fact no less than \$262.15 for Cricket Club gear and \$727.00 for Racquet Court gear, making \$989.15, belonging to the previously season's account, have been paid for in the account now before you, and I have the pleasure in informing you that when the present account was completed by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Nicolle, to whom we are indebted for putting us right in the matter, there were no liabilities against the Club, and we have a stock in hand at cost prices of \$500 Cricket Club gear and \$350 Racquet Court gear. In the account before you the Racquet Court expenditure exceeds the receipts by \$742.36, but of this \$582 should have appeared in previous account. It was anticipated when the Racquet Court was taken over that it would about pay for itself with the profits on sale of gear and liquor, and if we take the \$850 stock in hand into account and some allowance for members' subscriptions who have joined for Racquets alone, it has about paid its way. It is to be regretted that the results at cricket have been unsatisfactory during the past season and that generally there has been a lack of interest by the civilian members. It will be remembered that a discussion took place at the last annual general meeting, when various suggestions were made to further the game, and during the past season a Match Sub-Committee (Capt. Langhorne, Rev. Vallings, and Mr. Ward) have done good work, and it is to their efforts in a great measure that there has been a game going on every Saturday during the season. The quality of the civilian cricket here has undoubtedly depreciated, and yet there are far more young men in the colony now than formerly—one has now almost to go and beg men to play in the important matches, and surely there is something radically wrong when one has to do this. I sincerely trust that there will be more competition in the coming season, more particularly amongst the younger members, to get a place in the team in one of the representative matches. It is not long ago since we always looked for two or three men from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in the Hongkong Cricket Team, but it is to be regretted that not one man of the numerous staff in the Bank figures in the list of batting or bowling averages for last season. Only a few years ago, I believe, the Bank could put a full team in the field, and I may mention that in Shanghai there is an annual match between Waifoong and Taikoo. Why can't some similar match be arranged in Hongkong? I trust the Bank men will not take offence at my mentioning them in particular, but they comprise the biggest Hong in the East, and naturally this colony expects something from them in the cricket line. We know they flourish at other games, but at cricket we see nothing of them. Of course there are many other civilians in Hongkong in other offices who could also come forward, and I said before that in a place like Hongkong, which is growing every day, it is with the greatest difficulty to get eleven men together, and it makes one feel inclined to say that if things are going on in this state the club had better be shut up as a Cricket Club and started as a Croquet Club. Football, golf, and other sports and Volunteering have undoubtedly had an adverse effect in the colony on the national game and the alteration in the mail day for Europe some few years ago has helped to lessen the interest of civilian members, but I hope there will be a revival of cricket in Hongkong during the coming season, and that we shall not

hear the remarks from the older and non-playing members that they wish to see cricket and not bumblepuppy when they come to see a game. I am quite sure the incoming Committee will carefully note any remarks or suggestions from members for the furtherance of the national game. We are at present a very small committee, Mr. Justice Wise (President), Messrs. G. D. Campbell, (H.K. Regt.), C. C. Inchbald, H. C. Nicolle and Dr. J. A. Lowson being absent. I regret that our Hon. Secretary has just lately left for South Africa in ill-health. The thanks of the Club are due to him for his secretarial hard work for the benefit of the Club. Through his efforts in a great measure many matches have been won for our Club, notably the last cricket match in Shanghai, and his untiring energy and will power often saved his side from defeat when things looked black. I am sure we all wish to see him return to good health and to see him back again amongst us wielding the willow. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Nicolle will be leaving for England next spring, and he has resigned the post of Hon. Treasurer. We were very pleased to find a substitute in Mr. Hinds, and I hope you will elect him for the coming season. Mr. Inchbald's loss will be much felt on the Committee, for he practically did all the Racquet Court work and he devoted a good deal of time last season to revising the rules and regulations of the Courts. We anticipate that the iron railings sanctioned at the extraordinary meeting of the Club held in June last will be in position round the ground by the end of the year. The cost of them will make a big hole in our credit balance. The present Pavilion has again been patched up and will have to last another season or two until we can feel that we are in a strong enough position financially to erect a larger and more commodious one. This matter has been before your present Committee, but they felt that the railings were more urgently needed than the new pavilion. We had intended sending a team to Shanghai, but regret that the troubles in the North of China have prevented our doing so. We have invited Shanghai to come down here and we hope they will be able to meet us on our ground, although we have just heard from the Hon. Secretary of the Shanghai Club that it is exceedingly doubtful if they will be able to visit us this season. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question to the best of my ability.

Mr. J. MACKIE asked if it was not a fact that at the last annual meeting the cost of tiffens and refreshments was discussed and whether it was not decided that the amount, if not cut off altogether, should be reduced. There was an expenditure of \$572.50 on tiffens and refreshments during the year, and they practically only had 11 men playing cricket. That was about \$40 apiece for chow, and that was all they had done; they had not played cricket. (Laughter). They also had \$195.80 for cakes and refreshment for the Racquet Court. A man did not want his liquors there for a game for which he practically paid nothing to be allowed to play.

Captain LANGHORNE—There is a profit of 17 per cent. on the liquor.

Mr. MACKIE—I think you ought to make a larger profit.

The CHAIRMAN said the question of the cost of tiffens was not brought up at the previous annual meeting. It had been discussed by the committee, and they of course left it to the members to say whether the full tiffens were to be continued. As a matter of fact a good deal of the \$572 was for tea and cakes and other things for the ladies who came down to see the matches. It was a good thing for the players to have tiffen there, because now they had only one day for cricket and a short day at that, and it was well to keep the men there. They sometimes stopped play at one o'clock and started again at half-past one or five and twenty to two. They always had free tiffens, but of course that was no reason why they should continue to have them.

Mr. THOMSON—"Rent of telegraph pole \$1." What is the meaning of that?

The CHAIRMAN—That is the rent received for allowing a telegraph pole to be put on the ground.

Mr. THOMSON—But there is none here. (Laughter).

Captain LANGHORNE—That does not matter if we collect the rent.

The report and accounts were then adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH.

On the motion of Mr. MACKIE, seconded by Mr. THOMSON, it was decided that the incoming committee should consider the cost of the tiffens and refreshments and see if it could not be reduced.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing Mr. E. W. Mitchell as president, observed that none of the non-playing members, except perhaps Mr. Wise, took a greater interest in cricket than Mr. Mitchell, and if they elected him he believed it would be to the benefit of the club.

Mr. THOMSON seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. MITCHELL returned thanks, saying that he should endeavour to the best of his ability to promote the interests of the club and of Hongkong cricket generally.

Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH was elected hon. secretary on the motion of Mr. P. A. COX, seconded by Captain LANGHORNE.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Captain LANGHORNE, Mr. E. Hinds was elected hon. treasurer.

The following were appointed on the committee:—Mr. F. Maitland, Mr. P. A. Cox, Capt. Langhorne, R.A., Mr. H. Pinckney, Lt. Strong, R.M.L.I., and Mr. E. A. Ram.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"D" INFANTRY COMPANY.

The Infantry branch of the local Volunteer Corps has been steadily going ahead since its "recruit" stage of a year ago, and it was encouraging to see 27 members turn up on Sunday morning last to compete for a very handsome cup presented by the Hon. J. J. Keswick. Owing to its being the first shoot of the season, most of the competitors were firing over the range for the first time, and, with an extremely tricky wind, the result was poor scoring. This will, no doubt, be much improved as the season progresses. The following were the best scores:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	H'cap	To- tal.
† Pte. J. Andrew	25	26	30	12	93
* Pte. A. Mackenzie	28	29	26	3	86
† Capt. J. M. G. Forbes	23	24	21	12	80
† Lieut. T. Skinner	24	25	18	12	79
† Pte. H. Horley	26	10	25	15	76
† Pte. R. J. Gillings	24	25	11	14	74
† Pte. D. M. Graham	22	21	10	21	74

† Winners of spoons.

* Fired on Saturday last.

CONSULAR REPORT.

TIENTSIN.

Mr. Consul Carles in his report for 1899 says:—"The trade of Tientsin shows a very satisfactory advance in every direction. The advance is not of modern date, but has continued steadily for years, and has been more especially pronounced since 1888. Since 1888 there has been only one year, 1892, in which the net total of trade has not shown an increase: there has not been one year in which there has not been advance in either foreign or native imports, or else in exports, and in several years, such as 1895, 1898, and 1899, each of these three branches has shown a large advance. The trade of 1895-96 was almost double the totals of the years 1885-86, that of 1897 was more than double that of 1887: in 1898 the advance on 1888 was still more considerable, and in 1899 the improvement on 1889 was more than 150 per cent. The improvement has been least marked in native imports, which showed no improvement on the returns of 1877 until 1894, but foreign imports have improved every year except in 1892 since 1888, and exports have grown still more rapidly though not quite so constantly, 1893 and 1896 being exceptions to the rule." As Mr. Carles points out, when it is remembered that Peking, of which Tientsin is the port, is the only city in the Empire of China closed to foreign trade and that Chihli is a poor province, the growth of Tientsin trade is remarkable.

"The factors," he says, "which have had the greatest influence in its prosperity are chiefly

the energy of the foreign merchants who have sought in many directions to encourage an export trade in articles which before the opening of the port to foreign trade were of little account; the enlightened policy pursued by Li Hung-chang, during his long tenure of office as viceroy of the province, towards the development of trade; the proximity of the foreign legations, and the attention thus given to the prevention of the curtailment of treaty privileges, and more recently the establishment of foreign banks, and finally the construction of railroads."

He goes on to say: "At a time when so much criticism is devoted to the methods of of British trade, it is consoling to know that here at any rate in the development of export trade, in the establishment of banks and in the construction of railroads, Britishers have been the first on the field and afterwards have carried on their work successfully."

Tientsin is already a very important commercial centre, but railway construction is bound to make vast changes. At present, says Mr. Carles, the difficulties encountered in traversing Shansi lead to a large part of the trade with the north-west, instead of following the directed route through Shansi, passing northwards via Kalgan and Kueihua-chang over the level plains of the Mongolian plateau to Pao-tou on the Yellow River, where it meets the other trade route through Shansi. This is more especially the case with goods carried west. Produce brought from the west sometimes follows the level route through Mongolia, but not unfrequently descends through Central Shansi. The choice of route apparently depends largely on the weather.

An increase of shipping has naturally accompanied the increase of trade. The reports says: "The total tonnage for 1899 is 250,000 tons over that for 1898. The tendency to increase the size of vessels has been evident here as elsewhere, and, despite the fact that only one steamer has reached Tientsin in each of the last two years, the average tonnage of steamers is now larger than in 1890, namely, 891 in 1890, 931 in 1898, and 936 in 1899. The proportion of British shipping to the total has somewhat diminished of late years. In 1890 it was over 47 per cent. of the whole (including Chinese shipping of foreign build), in 1898 it was 45 per cent., and in 1899 38 per cent. The total British tonnage, entered and cleared, has, however, advanced from 406,612 tons in 1890 to 571,486 tons in 1898, and 613,806 in 1899. There may be, perhaps a decrease in the present year, as the detention to which steamers are exposed on the bar is of such serious moment that some English companies are putting their steamers, for a time, on more profitable lines than that from Shanghai to Tientsin. Chinese tonnage is steadily increasing, and in 1899 amounted to 46 per cent. of the total shipping of foreign build."

Of course Mr. Carles has something to say of the "Boxers." The precise object which they have in view (he writes early in this year) is difficult to understand. "They certainly are considered to be actuated by patriotic motives and in some way to be opposing foreign encroachments on their country. But they are not armed with firearms and do not seem to be making any effort to procure arms." [Was this the fact, even when Mr. Carles wrote?] "Considerable sympathy is felt for them by a powerful section of the official class and though the sect was prohibited by name in 1808 by Imperial Edict . . . no serious effort has been made to enforce the provisions of this Edict against them in the present day." Mr. Carles admits the spread of the sect among the country people, but "hopes that the fall of rain may send the people to their farms and prevent the movement assuming any serious proportions."

The reports concludes:—"To sum up, it appears probable that the expansion in the trade of this port will continue. The total of its trade is already second only to that of Shanghai, and the net total of foreign imports is larger than even that of Shanghai. The development of foreign trade has entailed that of the foreign community. There are now four foreign banks, eighty-one commercial houses, and a population of about 1,400 foreigners. In the last twelve years the price of land in some instances has advanced from Tls. 500 per mow (1/6

acre) to Tls. 7,500. Public gardens and recreation grounds have been laid out. Gas and waterworks have been constructed, and in addition to the substantial buildings now erected in Tientsin, a town has sprung up at the seaside, 160 miles away, at which there are already about 100 residences."

INDIAN CAVALRY FOR THE EAST

The good work by the 1st Bengal Lancers in the action which cleared the way to Peking only goes to show that the "pointed sticks," at which Mr. Winston Churchill girds in his usual impulsive way, are still effective weapons in the hands of trained men who know how to use them. The lance really is an ideal arm for cavalry charging a mob of undisciplined men; its value was proved beyond question in the Swat Valley and at Shabkadar in 1897. The only regret now must be that a full Cavalry Brigade was not sent from India when the demand for troops for China was originally made. The march from Tientsin would probably have been a much simpler business, while the losses inflicted upon the Chinese would have been far heavier. It should be noted, too, that the 1st Bengal Lancers had only a few trifling casualties, while the Tartars opposed to them were severely punished. There may yet be a chance for the other regiments that are on their way to China, and we are convinced that if the war lasts for any length of time the Indian Cavalry will play a prominent part in the operations. As to the question of arms, it is to be hoped that the military authorities in India will not listen to the absurd cry to turn good cavalry into inferior mounted infantry; to take away the sword, lance and carbine and substitute the rifle and bayonet. The reform that is needed is to lighten the weight on the horse, and this can best be done by discarding some of the equipment and not by changing the arms. Indian cavalry are never likely to meet again an enemy like the Boer. Our troops in South Africa have really been fighting against an Army composed of mounted infantry, plus a certain amount of artillery, and our cavalry have been handicapped in consequence. But simply because the orthodox shock-tactics have been discredited, and because scouting has had to be done under very trying conditions, there is no adequate reason for abolishing cavalry as cavalry. Let us have mounted infantry, by all means, and let the men be picked shots, fair riders, and of good physique, led by specially selected officers; but, at the same time, let us guard against the danger of demoralising our cavalry by teaching them that they must rely upon the rifle and not upon the sword or lance. The pendulum may easily swing too far back in this instance as in many others: the East has always been and still probably will be the land of cavalry *par excellence*, from the time that the Parthian horse annihilated the Roman legions on the Euphrates. It would be a serious matter to go against the bent of the soldiery and the character of the country simply because of sudden and hysterical demands for sweeping changes. Simplify the equipment; give more transport if necessary to carry the impedimenta; in short "take the weight off the horse," and the result will show that in India cavalry can last out a campaign and render excellent service in their own way. —Pioneer.

From Wuhu comes the report of a serious row between the local soldiers and the provincial "Tigers" (soldiers) on the 9th inst. According to a report of the disturbance furnished to the *Shanghai Mercury* it appears that some half dozen Tigers were maltreated in a teashop or gambling house by a crowd of local soldiers, and a whole lot of Tigers came down, hunted the locals all over the town, and captured several of them, and strung them up to the masthead (the Tigers live in junks) by their tails for about 15 minutes and slashed them about with swords. One of the locals came down with a run through his scalp parting company with his head, but the Tigers would not let him off with that, lashed his arms behind him, drove a bamboo through them, and triced him up again. It was not known whether the captives died or not. The row had nothing whatever to do with foreigners.

A FRENCH CRITIC ON CHINESE POLICY.

L'Echo de Chine quotes an article from the *Petite Gironde*, wherein M. G. Hanotaux discusses China's attempts to sow discord among the Allies. The writer says:—

To America and France a request is sent for their mediation; to Germany, who must especially resent the loss and the affront put upon her by the death of her Minister, Baron von Ketteler, a humble apology is made, and pardon, so to speak, is begged. With Russia secret negotiations go on at St. Petersburg. In the case of Japan the identity of race and interests as against Europe is invoked. And finally with England a whole campaign of clever insinuations and interested inducements is undertaken by means of intermediaries who are naturally the business men residing in the great commercial centres, Shanghai, Canton, etc.

So, while the allied troops, marching side by side, are capturing Tientsin, the Cabinets each and all are following a policy which, notwithstanding the mutual good feeling, is in danger of not being always completely identical, because the interests concerned and the modes of thought of each of the Powers differ.

Russia recoils, England reflects, Germany sends a large number of troops quickly and quietly. Japan has already a whole army on the spot, and is preparing another. America believes up to a certain point in the good faith of the Chinese and hesitates considerably about going to the bottom of the affair. France does what she can not to be caught unprepared in the south, and sends such forces as she has at her disposal.

HONGKONG.

At the Supreme Court on the 15th inst. the Chief Justice gave judgment for plaintiff with costs in the case *Sz To Shing v. Sit Yee*.

Since last week's issue, only one fresh case of plague and one death have reported in Hongkong, the numbers for the year being now 1063 cases and 1005 deaths.

Early on the 19th instant a fire broke out at 178, Third Street, which is a joss-stick shop. The Fire Brigade appeared, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Only about \$30 damage was done. The cause of the fire is unknown.

At the village of Tai Ko Hang, near Yaumati, on the 16th inst., a mat-shed caught fire. Sixteen others quickly became ignited, and by the time the Fire Brigade appeared—and it was soon on the scene—the mat-sheds and their contents were destroyed, 25 pigs and a number of fowls being also burned to death. The damage is put down at \$900.

At 5.55 a.m. on the 14th inst. Sergeant Garrod found the Traveller's Hotel in Queen Victoria Street in full swing, drink being served to customers. Six o'clock is the legal time for opening, and he accordingly took the landlady, Mrs. Oliver, before the Magistrate. She averred that it was six o'clock by her clock, which she kept by the city clock, when the Sergeant came on the scene. Under the circumstances, His Worship dismissed the case.

An article which is probably stolen more than any other, particularly in the harbour, is coal. Three men were charged at the Magistracy on the 14th inst. with being in unlawful possession of a ton. Lance-Sergeant Angus saw them drawing a truck-load along the Praya. He questioned them but could get no satisfactory explanation, and accordingly took them to the Central Police Station. One of them was fined \$100, and the other two, who were in his employ, \$5 each.

At the Victoria Gaol on the 18th inst. the sentence of death passed upon Tang Lin and Lo Tam at the Supreme Court last month for the murder of an old man named Cheung Lau, in Kowloon Bay, on the 21st of June, was carried out. Later on in the day the inquest on the bodies was held, at which Dr. Thomson gave his opinion that Tang Lin died of strangulation, and Lo Tam from the shock due to dislocation. It will be remembered that the prisoners were in a sampan in Kowloon Bay when they set upon the occupants, and injured an old man who owned the boat so severely that he died.

The Telegraph Companies on the 18th inst. informed us that a cable has been laid and is now working between Shanghai and Chefoo. Hongkong is therefore in direct cable communication with Chefoo, Taku, Weihai-wei and Port Arthur.

Paul Rugeberg, tidewater, Western Hotel charged with having in his possession a revolver and ammunition without a permit, appeared before Mr. Hazeland on the 19th inst., but was discharged, with a caution. The revolver and ammunition were ordered to be forfeited to the Crown.

Two women from Canton appeared before Mr. Hazeland on the 18th inst. charged with bringing five girls into the colony for the purpose of prostitution. The women brought the girls from Canton, intending to take them to Singapore. On the application of Mr. Lee, the case was adjourned for a week, bail being fixed at \$200 each.

At the Magistracy on the 14th inst., before Mr. Hazeland, the re-hearing of the case in which Lo Fuk was fined \$100 for infringing the rights of the Postmaster General by unlawfully conveying letters between Hongkong and Canton took place. Mr. Deacon (Messrs Deacon and Hastings) was for the defence, and he convinced His Worship that the letters had gone through the Post Office, handed to the Customs Officials at Canton, and distributed by them. The previous connection was accordingly reversed and the fine returned.

A Chinaman told Mr. Hazeland the following story at the Magistracy on the 17th inst.: I have just come from Annam and am living in an hotel. At about seven o'clock this morning when I was standing outside the boarding house a man came up to me and said, "Neighbour, there is something on your shoulder." I stopped down to pick up a piece of wood to wipe it off when the man put his hand in my pocket and took out my purse, which contained 30 cents. I seized him by the queue and gave him into custody. The defendant handed the purse to another man.—A Chinese constable said he saw the complainant holding the defendant by the queue. He went up to him and asked him what was the matter. The complainant said the man had stolen his purse. He got hold of the defendant to arrest him when he said, "Don't arrest me. Here are the 30 cents which I return to the complainant."—The defendant said he did not steal the purse. The 30 cents belonged to him. He was a coolie. He added, "If it was me the purse would have been in my possession. The man who stole the money stole the purse as well."—Sentenced to a month's hard labour.

It is not generally known in Hongkong, writes a correspondent, that on Monday night, the 10th instant, during the gale, the large Blue Funnel steamer *Patroclus* broke adrift from her moorings at the Company's buoy opposite Pedder's Wharf at midnight and had a most narrow escape of doing damage to herself and other vessels as she drifted down the harbour. Fortunately Captain Dickens had given orders for steam to be got up early in the evening when the weather was threatening. When the mooring chains parted it was reported by the deck officer that the ship was drifting and when Captain Dickens found the report correct he called the Chief Engineer, who informed him that he had sufficient steam to give the steamer a turn ahead or astern as might be required. The *Patroclus* drifted stern first towards the Praya but by careful handling with the wind and tide assisting she was driven down westward sideways, escaping buoys and steamers in a most marvellous way. Indeed, she only passed the Canton Steamer's Wharf within a few yards. When she cleared the shipping she anchored for the night at West Point. Much credit is due to Captain Dickens for the able way in which he manipulated his vessel during her drift down the harbour, a journey which few navigators would attempt in a clear night with their ship heading straight to their destination and the steamer and engines under full control. The promptness, too, of the deck officers in detecting the dragging at such an early stage is worthy of considerable praise. The whole steamer's company indeed have to be congratulated on their smartness and seamen-like manner in which they attended to their duties.

Major H. H. Brown, R.A.M.C., Acting Principal Medical Officer, has been appointed member of the Sanitary Board.

On the 18th inst. Lau Kit, servant boy to Mr. J. Alaka, of No. 1, Richmond Road, saw a loafer go into the verandah and come out again with a chair. The boy arrested him, and on the 19th inst. Mr. Hazeland sentenced him to a month.

Lance-corporal Bennet was near the Central Hotel on the 18th inst. when he hailed a rickshaw. The coolie, Wong Tak, however, refused to take him and tried to get away. He was caught and given into custody. On the 19th inst. he was fined \$3, or 14 days.

The crusade against neglecters of lime-washing still continues, the owners of 31 houses being fined \$10 per house on the 18th inst. for neglecting to attend to the lime-washing, and seven others were fined \$5 for not giving notice. All the houses were in the eastern district.

There was a row among the coolies at Quarry Bay Sugar Refinery last week, some Cantonese severely drubbing some Chiu Chew men, whom they out-numbered, one of the defeated party being so badly used that he had to be sent to the hospital. In consequence the Chiu Chew men were afraid to return to work. They went to the head coolie's house for their wages and on being refused, as they had not worked the week out, they appear to have created some disturbance. At any rate the head coolie summoned nine of them to appear at the Magistracy on the 15th inst. During the hearing of the case it came out that previous to their going to the complainant's house on Sunday the complainant and two of the defendants called at the Central Police Station. Inspector McLennan, who was on duty in the charge room, said that he heard the complainant promise to pay the men, but that he afterwards refused to do so. Hence the disturbance. Under the circumstances His Worship discharged the men.

A kidnapping case of a most extraordinary character came before Mr. Hazeland on the 18th inst. It seems that on the 13th inst. a woman named Chan Yee called upon a woman in Jubilee Street whom she had known some six years ago. This was at about half-past 12. The woman talked about different things and in the course of the conversation the visitor said she would buy the other woman's little boy a pair of wooden clogs. The mother, not to be out-done in generosity, said she would buy her some fruit in return, but this the visitor said she would not think of accepting. The visitor got up to leave at about a quarter to one, it having been arranged that the mother's niece should go with her for the clogs. As they were leaving the house the visitor took hold of the boy's hand, saying that he could come too, and led him away. When she reached the Praya she said to the girl, "Oh, go back and get a basket for the fruit." The girl went back for the basket, but as soon as the mother heard her errand she suspected that something was wrong, and she and another woman at once left the house with the intention of bringing the boy back. Both the boy and the woman, however, were nowhere to be seen. She had given a certain boarding house as her address, but it was found that she was not known there at all. The police were then informed and enquiries were set on foot. Chinese Detective-sergeants 292 and 254 ultimately succeeded in tracing the missing woman to the servants' quarters of the Hospital Sisters on Monday morning. She denied all knowledge of the child, saying that she left him in the street, and one of the men-servants ordered the detectives away. On producing a note with which they had been provided by Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, however, they were permitted to search the premises, but without result. Detective-sergeant 292 then went into the yard and on looking up towards the servants' quarters saw a child standing on tip-toes and looking through a window. He immediately rushed upstairs again, and got hold of the little fellow, who was identified by a woman he had taken with him for the purpose as the missing child. A further search of the premises proved that the man-servant who had been so saucy when the detectives first made their appearance and the woman who had taken the boy away were in league. They were accordingly both taken before Mr. Hazeland on the 18th inst. and each sentenced to six months' hard labour.

Among the departures by the *Parramatta* we notice the name of Mr. J. Y. Mayston, inspector of machinery at the Naval Yard, who has gone home after three years in the Colony.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that the former institution was visited by 357 non-Chinese and 112 Chinese, the latter by 428 non-Chinese and 998 Chinese.

The body of a coolie named Lam Ip, aged 60 years, has been sent to the mortuary. He fell from a scaffold on a new building in Des Voeux Road West, while assisting three others to carry a piece of iron. He fell about 40 feet on to some timber.

The prosecutions instituted by the Sanitary Board are adding considerably to the colony's exchequer. On the 19th inst. Inspector L. C. Brett got 20 persons fined \$2 each for illegal cubicles, seven persons \$10 each for neglecting to lime-wash, and two others \$10 each for other offences against the Sanitary By-laws.

Among the invalids who arrived from the north the other day in the *Jelunga* on his way home was Corporal Hammond, of the R. W. F., who lost his left arm at the attack on Tientsin. He and his section were sitting on a railway siding when a shell burst near them, and his arm was taken clean out of the socket.

A Hindoo Cemetery has been authorised on the south slope of Danger Flag Hill, Kowloon, on Military Reserve Land, midway between the Military and Association Rifle Ranges and about thirty yards to the north of the line joining the butts. The Cemetery measures fifty feet square, and its limits have been defined by wooden pickets.

On the 19th inst. Mr. Hazeland fined a Kowloon ricksha coolie \$2 or eight days' hard for using abusive language towards Mr. Leo D'Almada e Castro, of the Supreme Court. On Monday last Mr. D'Almada e Castro took a ricksha from Kowloon Ferry Wharf to the V.R.C. (four minutes' drive) and paid the man the usual fee, five cents. The coolie thought he was insufficiently paid and used very bad language. His Worship remarked that he himself had found the coolies very abusive. We hope this will be a good lesson both to the ricksha coolies here and at Kowloon, for they are really very disagreeable sometimes.

There is a block of houses in Hollywood Road, opposite the Chinese Recreation Ground, which has earned an unenviable reputation as the resort of gamblers. The police are continually making raids, and during one of these raids on 244, Hollywood Road, in January last, one of the gamblers lost his life while attempting to escape. On the 18th instant Chief Detective Inspector Hanson and a party of police visited 226, Hollywood Road, the third floor. They found a crowd of people, including some women, gambling round a table. Twenty arrests were made. Three men attempted to escape into the next house by way of the verandah. They were naturally in a hurry, and one of them missed his footing and fell into the street. He alighted on his head, which was smashed in, and died on the spot. The keepers of the house were fined \$25 each, or two months, and the rest \$3, or 14 days.

Three Shauiwan barbers appeared at the Magistracy on the 19th inst. charged with assaulting Bhuda Khan, a gunner in the Asiatic Artillery. Asked for a few particulars of the case, Inspector Robertson said that the other afternoon the complainant was in plain clothes near the market at Shauiwan. There being nothing much doing at the time some of the market employees were having a game at cards. The complainant went up to one group and asked for cumshaw. He was told to go away, but refused to do so. He still refused when offered ten cents, and one of the men pushed him, whereupon the complainant took him by the queue to drag him to the Police Station. A crowd of 40 or 50 people followed and called out "Ta." The Inspector added that the complainant persisted in saying that the defendants were the men who assaulted him, but he believed that he was mistaken, as from enquiries he had found out that they were in their shops at the time. His Worship said that if there had been an assault it was all the complainant's own doing. He should not have had anything to do with the Chinese. They did not want him. He should mind his own business. The defendants would be discharged.

Mr. H. Humphreys's house, "Derrington," was sold on the 19th instant to a Chinaman for \$65,000.

Chan Kan, a widow residing at No. 3, Lee Yuen Street, placed a jacket out to dry on a bamboo on the 19th inst., and at ten o'clock she saw a man, whose name was found to be Fung Lui, come along, pick up the jacket and bamboo and walk away. The woman raised an alarm and the man was arrested on the 19th inst. Mr. Hazeland sentenced him to six weeks' hard labour.

Two of our local legal luminaries had a heated altercation in the Supreme Court the other day at the conclusion of a certain case. One thought the other had been rather unscrupulous in a certain matter and called him "a cad." The other retaliated with "and you're a blackguard!" The spectators would not have been surprised if from words the parties had come to blows. It has been suggested that they should settle their differences early some morning by retiring to the Race Course with coffee and pistols.

Indian constable No. 744 is evidently not devoid of the detective instinct. He was on duty on the Praya on the 13th instant when he saw a man come off the Canton boat who at once aroused his suspicions. The man wore a queue and was dressed as a Chinaman. The constable, however, thought there was something wrong about him, particularly as he looked rather bulky about the body, as if wishing to conceal something. He accordingly stopped him, and as the man seemed disinclined to stay and be interrogated, the constable seized him by the queue, when lo and behold the hirsute appendage came off into his hand! This convinced the Indian that all was not square, so he took his capture to the Central Police Station. Here the sham Chinaman was found to be a Japanese in disguise. And not only that but it was discovered that he had in his possession two revolvers, 50 rounds of ammunition, and a couple of knives. He also had a case containing two burglar's tools of a special pattern—that is a steel saw for inserting between the edge of a door and the groove, and another instrument with a gouge at the end and with sides as sharp as a razor. The man declined to give any explanation except that he was on business for a certain firm whose name he would not divulge. On the 14th inst. he was taken before Mr. Hazeland and fined \$250, or three months, for being in possession of arms without a permit. It may be assumed that the police will keep an eye on him while he is in Hongkong.

Two firemen from the U.S.S. *Meade* found themselves in the dock on the 15th inst. charged with riotous behaviour in the Hunghom Hotel while drunk. Their names were George Nash and John Halston. When charged Nash said he was drunk but not riotous. Halston denied being drunk, adding that he merely tried to quell a disturbance which was going on in the hotel. The landlord's story was that at five o'clock the previous evening Nash came into his hotel and ask for some wine. As the man was drunk he refused to serve him: Nash then became very angry, and revenged himself by going behind the bar and smashing five or six tumblers. Then Halston came in. He took a bottle of whisky from the counter, drank out of it, and then threw it away. The men attempted to strike him. He told them to go away, and because they refused he sent for the police and had them arrested.—Nash said there were two men fighting in a back room and he interfered.—Halston said he never broke a bottle of whisky. He removed a bottle from a chair and put it away so that the men who were fighting could not break it.—His Worship, to the complainant: Why did you not stop the men who were fighting? Why did you not call in the police?—The complainant: I went for the police and in the meantime they went away.—The barman's story was somewhat different from the landlord's. He said Nash came in with two bottles of whiskey which he had bought at the compradore's shop next to the hotel. He asked him for a corkscrew, and because he refused to let him have one he abused him. Then he went up to two or three men who were sitting on a bench, let them drink, and then threw the bottle on to the floor. This was all he saw. He did not see any tumblers broken.—The two stories were so contradictory that His Worship dismissed the case.

Notification is given in an Express from the Colonial Secretary's office to the effect that the Peak water supply will be cut off from 12 noon to 6 p.m. daily until further notice. This is owing, it is understood, to a temporary breakdown of the pumping machinery.

At the Harbour Master's Office on the 13th inst. the charge of desertion against Long Sing, fireman on board the British steamer *Shansi*, was heard. The defendant pleaded guilty, but declared that he was not a fireman, only a cook. John George Carnaghan, master of the *Shansi*, said defendant was either fireman or coal-trimmer. He deserted some time during the night of Saturday, the 8th inst. He knew of no reason why the defendant should have deserted.—John Lumer, chief engineer of the *Shansi*, said defendant was a trimmer and was employed as cook for one day only. He said that fires were alight during Saturday night, and firemen were keeping watches. In the morning all were found to have left the ship. He first knew about it at 7 a.m. on Sunday, when the fires had burnt out, and there were 50 or 60 lbs. steam in the boilers. There were no Europeans on watch below during the night.—Jas. McNair, second engineer on the ship, said the defendant was coal-trimmer of his watch. He discovered he had deserted about 6.50 on Sunday morning. The defendant should have kept the morning watch.—The Defendant stated he left the ship to buy provisions. He returned the following morning and had been acting as cook since.—The Master and second engineer stated that he had not been seen on the ship since his desertion.—The Chief Engineer corroborated.—Mr. Basil Taylor found him guilty of desertion. He was to forfeit all wages and effects, and to undergo eight weeks' hard labour. Long Sing is only one of eleven of the crew of the *Shansi* who deserted in Victoria Harbour. The remaining ten have not yet been apprehended.

Tseng Fu Tsoi, Leung Kan and Ho Kam Wing, masters of cargo boats 1,396, 1,032, and 1,025 respectively, were charged before Mr. Hazeland on the 17th inst. with unlawfully failing to cover with serviceable tarpaulin some kerosene which they had in their boats on Saturday. The first and second defendants were further charged with having fires on their boat while they were laden with kerosene, and the first defendant was still further charged with failing to display a red flag on his boat while it was laden with kerosene.—Sergeant Gourlay said that on Saturday last he visited the defendant's boats, which were near Stonecutters Island. In the first defendant's boat he found 13 tins of kerosene. It was covered with a piece of sheeting only, and even the sheeting was full of holes. He could count the tins without removing the cloth. The defendant had three men on board soldering up the tins and also had two fires in chatties. He also displayed no red flag. The second defendant had eight or nine tins of kerosene in his boat. It was partially covered with a small piece of cloth. In the stern of the boat he found the cinders left of a fire at which the defendant had been cooking his chow. The third defendant had kerosene loose on board, it being in his hold. The other coolies were taking it out and putting it in the tins. He believed the third defendant got the kerosene from a ship, and he engaged the others to help him to put it in tins.—The first defendant said he was soldering the tins and he had a fire there for the purpose, but he was very careful.—The second defendant said: I had just got fixed to the other junk when the police launch came alongside. We had done about six tins when the launch came alongside.—The third defendant said: I received the kerosene first into my junk, and the other two took it out.—His Worship said that within a very short time two fires had occurred on kerosene junks, doubtless due to the regulations as to dangerous goods being ignored. Had a wind suddenly risen and one of these junks had drifted down the harbour, it was too terrible to think what damage would have been. It was almost the impossible to make these men understand the great damage of neglecting the rules and regulations. The first defendant was fined \$100, the second \$25, and the third \$25. A boatwoman was also dealt with for having a fire on board her boat when laden with kerosene.

Apart from plague only one case of communicable disease was reported in the Colony last week, viz., a case of enteric fever on the French gunboat *Argus* in the Harbour. Of the 5 plague cases, 3 were in Victoria and 2 outside.

Inspector Ford and a party of police visited a *fun-tan* school at No. 1, Wing Fung Street, the other night and succeeded in capturing 13 of the gang. One of them was an old hand at the game, being fined \$50 last March for a similar offence. He was now fined \$75, or two months' Another was fined \$25, or a month, and the rest \$3, or 14 days.

At the Magistracy on the 19th inst. Jose Maria Sequeira, of 34, Elgin Street, was summoned by Chung Kan and Ng Lau, private chair-coolies, for assault. Mr. Looker appeared for the defendant, who had taken out a cross summons for inciting to a breach of the peace. Chung Kan said he was chair-coolie to the Portuguese Consul. At 1 p.m. on Sunday he was outside the Portuguese Club. The defendant was playing top with several other boys. His top knocked up against his feet. The defendant told him to hand him the top, which he did. The defendant accused him of kicking the top and kicked him on the left side.—In reply to Mr. Looker, the witness said he kicked the top about two yards. The defendant gave him a slap on the face as he was picking up the top.—The other chair-coolie corroborated, adding that when he told the defendant not to kick the other man he kicked him as well.—The defendant's story was that he and his brother were playing at top, and one of the coolies gave the top a kick. He asked him to pick the top up, but he refused to do so. Then a crowd came round and there were shouts of "Ta." The complainants rolled up their sleeves and assumed a fighting attitude, upon which the defendant struck them in the chest, but did not kick them.—His Worship considered the coolies to blame, and dismissed both cases.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA. EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1 lbs.	1899-00 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...		
Amoy	229,624	214,403
Foochow	9,587,610	9,491,174
Canton		
	9,817,234	9,705,577

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
Shanghai		
Amoy	8,292,371	3,828,401
Foochow	6,608,684	2,643,067
	14,901,055	6,471,468

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 21st September.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations for Formosa are:—\$95.50 to \$96.00; sales 50 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 21st September.—The tone of the market has improved a little, and prices are going upward. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$7.75 to \$7.80 pcl.
do. 2, White.....	6.90 to 6.95 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ..	5.15 to 5.20 "
do. 2, Brown ..	5.00 to 5.05 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	7.80 to 7.85 "
do. 1, White.....	6.95 to 7.00 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ..	5.05 to 5.10 "
do. 2, Brown ..	4.90 to 4.95 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.25 to 11.30 "
Shekloong ..	9.55 to 9.60 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, sailed 6th September. For Odessa:—150 boxes cassia, 16 bales canes. For Beyrouth:—10 boxes waste silk. For Alexandria:—5 cases essential oil. For Trieste:—500 bales cassia, 175 bales rattanshaving, 1 case essential oil. For Genoa:—240 bales raw silk, 44 rolls matting, 21 bales canes, 5 cases essential oil. For New York:—

25 boxes human hair. For Venice:—100 boxes cassia. For Antwerp:—40 bales feather, 30 boxes cassia, 30 bales bambao scraps, 9 cases ginger. For Antwerp Hamburg:—163 boxes bristles. For Antwerp Hamburg/London:—950 boxes cassia, 600 bales broken cassia, 62 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam:—100 casks ginger, 45 rolls matting, 22 cases preserves, 10 bales canes. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam:—200 casks ginger, 100 boxes ginger. For Rotterdam:—30 bales broken cassia, 200 boxes cassia, 12 rolls matting, 9 cases cigars. For London:—250 cases ginger, 150 casks ginger, 25 boxes bristles. For Bremen:—324 rolls matting, 16 cases preserves. For Hamburg:—3,580 pkgs. tea, 1,000 bales broken cassia, 800 boxes cassia, 229 rolls matting, 215 bales canes, 158 bales feathers, 100 bags galangal, 100 boxes palmleaf fans, 59 boxes bristles, 36 cases human hair. For Hamburg/London:—10 boxes bristles. For Copenhagen:—1,050 boxes cassia.

Per steamer *Yarra*, sailed 10th September. For Marseilles, 105 bales raw silk, 2 bales waste silk, 15 cases silks, 2 cases furniture, 16 cases effects, 585 pkgs. tea, 156 rolls matting. For Lyons, 352 bales raw silk. For London, 70 bales raw silk, 3 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, sailed on 15th September. For Manchester:—25 bales waste silk. For London:—4 cases cigars, 62 bales waste silk opt. Manchester, 106 bales raw silk, 1 case silks. For Marseilles:—204 pkgs. tea from Foochow, 200 boxes tea from Macao, 65 bales raw silk, 20 boxes tea, 250 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—284 bales raw silk. For Gibraltar:—200 boxes tea.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 21st September.—Prices continue going upward, the market being brisk. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.95 to 3.00
Round, Good quality	3.20 to 3.25
Long	3.40 to 3.45
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	3.10 to 3.15
Garden, No. 1 ..	3.45 to 3.50
White ..	4.10 to 4.15
Fine Cargo ..	4.30 to 4.35

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 21st September.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—700 bales No. 10 at \$85 to \$95, 850 bales No. 12 at \$89 to \$93, 350 bales No. 16 at \$90 to \$98, 1,300 bales No. 20 at \$94 to \$108.—*Grey Shirtings*.—300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Fish at \$3, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Man at \$3.80, 1,200 pieces 10 lbs. 4 Butterflies at \$3.40, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 bags at \$3.10, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$4.20, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$4.40, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$3.65, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue No. 1 at \$3.65, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue CWW at \$4.75, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$2.55, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 dogs at \$3.75, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss at \$3.75, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Cock at \$3.20, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 bags at \$3.20, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.75, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 boys at \$4.00, 1,500 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss at \$3.70, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$3.—*White Shirtings*.—500 pieces White Shirting D 70 at \$4.45, 500 pieces White Shirtings 300 at \$4.35, 500 pieces White Shirting 600 at \$5.40, 500 pieces White Shirting SQ at \$5.40, 300 pieces White Shirting Gold Tiger at \$7.80.

METALS.—*Quicksilver*.—120 flasks at \$1.63.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20.....	\$75.00 to \$105.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.05 to 2.15
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	2.90 to 3.65
9 to 10 lbs.	3.80 to 4.65
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.60 to 2.80
58 to 60 "	3.25 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.30 to 5.10
Fine.....	5.20 to 7.80
Book-folds.	4.40 to 6.30
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.78 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.00 to 2.20
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.90 to 2.10
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.40 to 2.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.80 to 3.50

Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs. } 4.20 to 7.10

FANCY COTTONS—
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. } 1.55 to 5.00

Brocades—Dyed — to —

Chintzes—Assorted 0.084 to 0.17

Vlveets—Black, 22 in. 0.224 to 0.60

Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.224

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.80 to 1.50

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet 6.40 to 10.00

Assorted 6.50 to 10.10

Camlets—Assorted 12.50 to 32.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 8.00 to 20.00

Assorted 8.50 to 10.00

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod 4.80 to —

Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.80 to —

Swedish Bar 7.50 to —

Small Round Rod 5.25 to —

Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 5.50 to —

Wire 5/25 8.50 to —

Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —

Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 10.25 to —

Australian 10.10 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz. 14/20 oz. 35.00 to —

Vivian's. 14/20 oz. 34.00 to —

Elliot's. 14/20 oz. 34.00 to —

Composition Nails 55.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 38.50 to —

Tin 72.00 to —

Tin-Plates 7.25 to —

Steel ¼ to ¾ 6.75 to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver 163.00 to —

Window Glass 5.50 to —

Kerosene Oil 2.57½ to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 21st September.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 2/0½

Bank Bills, on demand 2/0½

Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 2/0½

Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 2/1

Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/1½

Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/1½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.59

Credits, 4 months' sight 2.64

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 2.11

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 50½

Credits, 60 days' sight 51½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 154½

Bank, on demand 154½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 154½

Bank, on demand 154½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 71½

Private, 30 days' sight 72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 1 p.c. dis.

ON MANILA.—

On demand 1 p.c. pm.

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 1 p.c. pm.

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand 123½

ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand 3 p.c. pm.

ON SAIGON.—

On demand 2½ p.c. pm.

ON BANGKOK.—

On demand.....	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.65
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	51
BAR SILVER, per oz.	28½

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 21st September.—A fair business has been transacted during the week and rates in most cases have been well maintained. The China Mutual Steam Navigation Company advertises an interim dividend of three per cent. on preference and of five on ordinary (£5 paid up) shares payable on 1st October.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands at 311 and 310 per cent prem. for cash and at equivalent rates forward. Market closing steady at 310 per cent. Nationals are still enquired for at quotation but without sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been placed at \$57, Unions at \$260, and Cantons at \$130, the last closing in demand at \$130. In the Northern Insurances there has been no local business and quotations are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

FIRE INSURANCES.—A small lot of Hongkong's has been placed at \$294, market closing with sellers at \$295. Chinas have changed hands at \$77.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled steady to firm and have been placed at \$30½ and \$31, closing steady at the latter rate. Douglases have been enquired for at \$40 to \$41, but holders do not seem disposed to part. Indos have ruled firmer; a small demand cash at \$83 and \$84 and at equivalent rates forward, failing to meet with any substantial response. Market closes with buyers at \$84. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—Both China Sugars and Luzons continue neglected and without change.

MINING.—Punjoms have further declined to \$3½, the lower rate even failing to bring any buyers into the market. Olivers "B" and Caledonians have changed hands in small lots at quotations. Jebebus have declined to \$8½ with a very small business. Queens have found buyers at \$12½, and later at 10 cents, and Raubs have been placed at \$53. In this last connection private advices from Singapore state that the whole of the new electric plant will be in working order by the middle of October. Charbonnages continue in request without bringing any shares in the market.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in fair demand and placed at 545 cash and 547 per cent. premium for 30th instant, whilst a small demand further forward remains unsatisfied. Kowloon Wharves have been placed in small lots at \$86, old, and \$58, new; the discrepancy in these two ruling rates is somewhat remarkable and unexplicable. Wanchais remain unchanged, but firm and in demand at quotation.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have continued steady to strong with small sales at \$177, at time of closing shares could be placed at \$179. Hongkong Hotels remain dull and inactive with little or no business. West Points have improved to \$51½ with sales at that, and at \$51. Humphreys have changed hands at \$10½.

COTTONS.—No business to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been negotiated at \$20 and \$19½, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Watsons have changed hands at \$15½. China Providents at \$9½ and Watkins at \$10. Ices are enquired for cash and forward, but are difficult to obtain.

MEMOS.—Douglas Steamship Company's Ordinary General Meeting on 29th inst. Hongkong Cotton Co., an informal meeting on 24th inst. to discuss the financial position of the Company. Union Insurance Society, Ordinary Yearly Meeting on 11th October; transfer books close on 1st October. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves Company, call of \$25 on new issue payable on 1st October; transfer books closed from 27th to 28th September.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	[5512], sellers
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	\$10 p. ct. prem. =
Do. deferred	£1	£1.
Natl. Bank of China		£5 5s.
A. Shares		\$26, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£8	\$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	\$1½, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9.50, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$112, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Laiou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 37½.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Hongkong	\$100	\$16.
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$8, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$48.
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$20, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$118.
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$10½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$2, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$170, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$120, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$166, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$86, sales 58, sells.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$170, buyers
Insurance—		545 p. ct. prem.
Canton	\$50	[806½]
China Fire	\$20	\$130, sales & buys.
China Traders'	\$25	\$77, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$57, sales & sellers
North-China	£25	\$294, buyers
Straits	\$20	Tls. 164.
Union	\$50	\$1.
Yangtze	\$60	\$260, sales & buys.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$121, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$179.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$10½, sales & sells.
West Point Building	\$50	\$25½.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$51½.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$36.
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	\$250, buyers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	10 cents
Jebebu	\$5	40 cents
Queen's Mines Ltd....	25c.	\$8½, sellers
Olivers Mines, A....	\$5	\$10, sellers
Do. B....	\$4½	\$3.
Punjom	\$8	\$4½, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3½, sellers
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$1, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$53, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$20½, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	£10	{ \$65, old sellers
China Ordinary	£10	{ \$28, sellers
Do.	£5	£11, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	£10 10s., s. & byes.
H., Canton and M....	\$15	£5 5s., buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$41, buyers
Shell Transport and		\$31, buyers
Trading Co.	£100	\$84, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	£300, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	{ \$18, sales
Do.	\$3	{ \$4½, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$5, sellers
D.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	\$20.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$37½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$10, sales
Universal Trading	\$5	\$15½, sales & sells.
Co., Ltd.		\$5½, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Clyde (str.), Alcinous (str.),	
Glaucus (str.), Shanghai (str.), Patroclus (str.).	
FOR MARSEILLES.—Salazie (str.).	
FOR BREMEN.—Hamburg (str.).	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Konigsberg (str.),	
Sarnia (str.), Bamberg (str.).	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Glenogle (str.).	
FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of	
Japan (str.).	
FOR PORTLAND, O.—Monmouthshire (str.).	
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Gaelic (str.), Hongkong	
Maru (str.), China (str.).	
FOR NEW YORK.—Glenesk (str.), Sackem (str.),	
Maria de Larrinaga (str.), Asturia (str.).	
FOR AUSTRALIA.—Shinano Maru (str.), Taiyuan	
(str.), Australian (str.).	

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—	
ARRIVALS.	DEPARTURES.
14, Sunda, British transport, from Taku.	14, Hailong, British str., for Amoy.
15, Daybreak, British str., from Shanghai.	15, Parramatta, British str., for Europe.
15, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.	15, Lawada, British transport, for Calcutta.
15, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.	15, Adour, French transport, for Taku.
15, Rewa, British transport, from Taku.	15, Lalpoora, British transport, for Taku.
15, Clive, British troopship, from Shanghai.	15, Flores, Dutch str., for Kutchinotzu.
15, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.	15, Tiger, Norw. str., for Kutchinotzu.
15, Choysang, British str., from Canton.	15, Hillglen, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.	15, Glenlyle, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.	15, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
15, Apenrade, German str., from Chefoo.	15, Patroclus, British str., for Nagasaki.
15, Feiching, British str., from Haiphong.	15, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
15, Macduff, British str., from Barry.	15, Daybreak, British str., for Canton.
15, Sultan V. Langkat, Dutch str., from Japan.	15, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
16, Amara, British str., from Samarang.	15, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
16, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.	15, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
16, Benclutha, British str., from Shanghai.	15, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
16, Germania, German str., from Manila.	15, China, German str., for Singapore.
16, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.	15, Phranang, British str., for Bangkok.
16, San Gottardo, Italian transp., from Spieria.	15, Glengarry, British str., for Kiaochoow.
16, Strassburg, Ger. transp., from Singapore.	15, Liv, Norw. str., for Kutchinotzu.
16, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.	15, Westgate, British ship, for P. Townsend.
17, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.	16, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
17, Melbourne, Fr. transp., from Marseilles.	16, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
17, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
17, Afridi, British str., from Amoy.	
17, Konigsberg, German str., from Singapore.	
17, Hinsang, British str., from Java.	
17, Brand, Norw. str., from Moji.	
17, Macedonia, British str., from Moji.	
18, Sachsen, German str., from Bremerhaven.	
18, Apenrade, German str., from Canton.	
18, Chihli, British str., from Canton.	
18, Thales, British str., from Swatow.	
18, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.	
18, Sibiria, German str., from Kobe.	
18, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.	
18, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.	
18, Menmuir, British str., from Manila.	
18, Phra C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.	
19, Amigo, German str., from Iloilo.	
19, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.	
19, Tamsui, British str., from Shanghai.	
19, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Shimonoseki.	
19, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.	
19, Preussen, German str., from Shanghai.	
20, Itaura, British transport, from Calcutta.	
20, Hector, British str., from Japan.	
20, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.	
20, Queen Adelaide, British str., from Moji.	
20, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.	
20, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.	
20, Ula, British transport, from Taku.	
20, Glenesk, British str., from Amoy.	
20, Shanghai, British str., from Kobe.	
20, Hoihao, French str., from Hoihow.	
21, Caledonien, French transp., from S'pore.	
21, Diamante, British str., from Manila.	
21, Idomeneus, British str., from Liverpool.	
21, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.	
21, Bombay, British str., from London.	
21, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.	
21, Progress, German str., from Tourn.	
21, Toonan, Amr. str., from Shanghai.	
21, Argonaut, British battleship, from Practice.	
21, Babelsberg, German str., from Barry.	
21, Taksang, British str., from Hongay.	
21, Tritos, German str., from Manila.	

16, P. C. C. Kiao, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Volute, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Decima, German str., for Taku.
 16, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.
 16, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Clive, British transport, for Bombay.
 16, Rewa, British transport, for Bombay.
 16, Adamastor, Portuguese cruiser, for Macao.
 16, Pundua, British transport, for Taku.
 17, Sunda, British transport, for Bombay.
 17, Ballarat, British transport, for Bombay.
 17, Argonaut, British battleship, for Practice.
 17, Melpomene, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 17, Benclutha, British str., for Canton.
 17, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Nestor, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 17, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Jelunga, British transport, for Bombay.
 17, Sumatra, British transport, for Taku.
 18, Strassburg, German transport, for Taku.
 18, Melbourne, French transport, for Taku.
 18, Hertha, German cruiser, for Shanghai.
 18, Bussard, German cruiser, for Amoy.
 18, Taishun, Amr str., for Haiphong.
 18, Feiching, British str., for Haiphong.
 18, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 18, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 18, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, City of Peking, Amr str., for S. F. cisco.
 18, Afridi, British str., for New York.
 18, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
 18, Fausang, British str., for Singapore.
 18, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 18, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, M. Bacquehem, Aust. str., for Yokohama.
 18, S. Gottardo, Italian transport, for Taku.
 19, Bergenhus, Norw. str., for San Francisco.
 19, Apenrade, German str., for Shanghai.
 19, Peluse, British str., for Swatow.
 19, S. V. Langkat, Dutch str., for Singapore.
 19, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Konigsberg, German str., for Tsingtau.
 19, Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Hermes, Norw. str., for Hongkong.
 19, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 19, Tamsui, British str., for Canton.
 19, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Tamsui.
 19, Germania, German str., for Moji.
 19, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, China, Austrian str., for Calcutta.
 19, Protector, British gunboat, for Shanghai.
 20, Britomart, British g-bt., for Canton.
 20, Meade, American transport, for Manila.
 20, Sibiria, German str., for Hamburg.
 20, Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
 20, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 20, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 20, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Hector, British str., for London.
 20, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
 21, Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 21, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
 21, Kashing, British str., for Moji.
 21, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Kingsing, British str., for Vladivostok.
 21, Anapa, British str., for Kobe.
 21, Shanghai, British str., for London.
 21, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Menmuir, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Parramatta*, for London, from Shanghai, Miss A. Frosberg, Rev. C. Blom, Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Evans and two infants, Rev. and Mrs. Stevens and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Mears, Mr. W. Benson; for Melbourne, Mr. A. F. Rainsford and Miss Fraser; for Hongkong, Viscount de Cholet, Messrs. H. Archibald, R. Willeke, J. W. Richardson, Murray Hewart and Lieut.-Col. Mallory.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Ellam, Mr. W. Jackson, Mr. H. J. Nicholson, Mrs. Lamont, Mr. H. Fernandez, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. W. V. Buskirk, Mr. W. C. Thompson and Commander Fox.

Per *Bengal*, for Hongkong, from Bombay, Messrs. N. E. Abdeali, S. Hormusjee and D. D. Talati; from London, Capt. A. J. Robson, Mrs. J. Stewart, Messrs. D. Cameron, A. Whitley, Dethoffessen, E. N. Hopkins, W. Hayes, Lieut. S. A. Hickey, Civ.-Surgs. Blackmore, Beringer and Macfadyen; from Marseilles,

Capt. Ducat, Senior, Civ.-Surg. Bevan, Lieut.-Col. Radford, Lieuts. Sterling and Hunter; from Brindisi, Captain Boome and Major Colomb; from Singapore, Messrs. E. Tillock, T. H. Marshall and Miss Hume; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Fallows, Miss Fallows, Mr. J. Rosenthal; from Marseilles, Capt. Hunter; for Shanghai, Miss Brackbill, Mr. Dudgeon; from Brindisi, Major Gold-Adam, Captains McSwiney and Harrison; from Colombo, Mrs. Getley, infant and two children, Mr. J. W. I. Nelson.

Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mrs. Christie and child, Mrs. Muir and Mr. McLachlan.

Per *Sachsen*, from Bremerhaven, for Hongkong, Field Marshall Count von Waldersee, General von Gayl, Count York von Wartenburg, Lieut.-Col. von Bohm, Col. Engalitscheff, Major von Marschall, Major Abrecht, Capt. Wilburg, Lieut.-Col. von Frankenberg, Major von Gebattel, Major von Zitzewitz, Capt. von Etzel and von der Groeben, Col. Richter, Capt. Loeffler, Lieut.-Col. Wachs, Capt. Schamer and Krickmeyer, Capt. Ritter u. Edler von Rogister, Count zu Eulenburg, Dr. Loos, Major Freyer, Mr. Rocholl, Capt. Wojcik and Ferigo, Lieut.-Col. de Chaurand, Capt. Skala, Major Bauer, Count Nayhauss, Lieut. a. d. Rauch, Lieuts. von dem Borne, Pogge and Wallmann, Count von Wintzingerode, Lieut. zur Nodden, Commissariat Officer Speltacker, Lieut.-Col. Powell, Capt. Frh. von Knigge, Count von Konigsmarck, Lieut.-Col. Genet, Superintendent Riemann, Superintendent Assessor Lueck, Dr. Hildebrandt, Dr. Muller, Paymasters Schlotter, Rossart Raketto, Secretaries Bade and Seltzer, Messrs. Lehmbuch and Neumann, Col. Grierson, Miss Flora Macgawa, Messrs. Thoning, Fahrlander and Ziegler.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Rev. J. Francis Aquirre, Rev. T. Acisclo Llano and Mr. W. Arthur.

Per *Yuwata Maru*, from Melbourne, for Hongkong, Bishop Courtney, Archdeacon Kaulbach, Mrs. Lambton, Mr. R. Jebb, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Mr. D. H. Cameron, Mrs. E. F. de Gargollo, Misses Gargollo, Messrs. Roberts Lienan, V. Reyes, R. Reyes, J. Reyes and Master C. Reyes, Messrs. Wright, H. Posar, G. Leigh, Mr. and Master G. Williams, Messrs. John J. Kelley and A. L. Reyes; for Yokohama, Bishop and Mrs. Awdry, Countess de Hamel de Marien, Mr. A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. F. Wright, Mr. C. Y. Spearling, Dr. and Mrs. Margery, Miss A. White, Capt. J. W. James, Mr. A. C. Reid, Mr. and Miss Hunter, Miss E. Garside, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mr. and Miss H. Butler, Mrs. and Miss Beltram de Lio, Mr. Bernard Cogan, Lieut. Alfred Hausbrack, U.S.A., Mr. Henly Blum, Mr. and Mrs. Chicken.

Per *Menmuir*, from Manila, Messrs. C. T. Andrews, J. C. Judson, H. L. Lewis, W. Millet and C. W. Swanson.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from Shimonoseki, for Hongkong, Mrs. Jaslein and Mr. W. Branne; for Marseilles, Messrs. M. Kaneko and S. Sakamoto.

Per *Preussen*, from Yokohama, Mrs. Meissel, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Cary and Mr. Ribeiro; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Scott, N. Perkey, M. J. Burgess and N. Clemensen; from Shanghai, Mrs. L. Suffert, Messrs. Russell, Th. M. Collins, H. Buck, R. Metz, H. Lane and H. Croad; from Foochow, Mr. Rosario.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, for Hongkong, Dr. F. A. Dale, Dr. J. H. Feeney, Dr. James Kenan, Mrs. H. L. Landers, Mrs. W. S. Mapes and son, Dr. D. W. Overton, Dr. H. Peddicord, Dr. Joseph Pinkard, Miss Marie Rush, Messrs. William Whitley, W. R. Allison, A. W. Brown, Mrs. C. G. Grant, Dr. A. W. Dunn, Dr. G. E. Henson, Mr. C. Klinck, Mrs. A. N. Ryland, Mr. S. Middleton, Dr. L. W. Pease, Dr. T. W. Perkins, Dr. J. W. Thornton, Dr. F. N. Wells, Mr. H. R. Lewis, Mrs. F. Parsons, Messrs. R. D. Ormsby and C. Ebbecke.

Per *Shanghai*, from Kobe, Mrs. Dean and family.

Per *Chingtu*, from Sydney, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. Peacock, Messrs. D. D. Rosewarne and E. C. Forest.

DEPARTED.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mr. G. A. Frieswyk, Mrs. Hoffmann, Doctors F. C. Griffiths, G. S. Dean, W. E. Chapman, G. M. Van Poole, C. C. Whitcomb, D. H.

Lamb, J. W. Holland, R. B. Grubbe, O. F. Davis, E. F. Slater and L. A. Spaeth, Capt. Douglas, Mr. Walter F. Henk, Mrs. A. P. Watts and Mr. W. C. Haswell.

Per *Loongsang*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mrs. H. B. Hammond, Miss Jennie L. Boyd, Mrs. Fanny Green and infant, Mrs. Onner, Drs. T. J. Strong, W. H. Tefft, Chas. H. Stoeckle, F. M. Wall, Wm. M. Roberts, E. E. Lamkie, Lieut. J. H. L. Holcombe, Messrs. J. J. Gallagher, Carl Hunt, J. M. Asencio and H. Wilmsen.

Per *Rosetta*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki, Capt. A. Kalls, Mr. George Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Sharp; for Kobe, Messrs. B. H. Smith and W. Sprague; for Yokohama, Messrs. L. Knight and H. E. Pollock.

Per *Bengal*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Miss M. C. Brown, Messrs. J. M. Medina, Juan Montaner, Josi Pichel, Whiting, Miss Wyon, Miss Onyon, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Ellam; from Colombo, Lieut. Hunter and Mrs. Getley; from Marseilles, Mr. E. L. Hopkins and Capt. Ducat; from Europe, Lieut. Heckley and Mr. W. Hayes.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong, for Colombo, Lieut. Hendley; for Marseilles, Mr. T. W. Richardson; for London, Dr. and Mrs. Sabin, Mrs. Thorne, Messrs. W. A. Howden, T. U. Thomas and J. Y. Mayston, R.N.; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. A. F. Rainsford, Miss A. Forsberg, Rev. C. Blom, Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Evans and family, Rev. and Mrs. Stevens and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Mears, Mr. W. Benson and Miss Fraser; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mr. F. J. Hallard.

Per *City of Peking*, for Shanghai, Messrs. F. W. Franks, G. Williams and Master Harry Williams; for Nagasaki, Mrs. E. Robinson; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Reece, Miss Mary Reece and Mr. E. Robinson; for Honolulu, Mr. Edward Osborn; for San Francisco, Lieut.-Com. Chas. E. Fox, U.S.N.

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